

THE TIMES

No. 66,358

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 13 1998

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TICKET 50
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English is en hope McCann

By Our Sports Staff

... the director, ready to pay around £4 million for him. "As far as Herrik is concerned, there is no thought of his part of leaving Celtic on behalf of the club," McGee said. "He will not be leaving either now or in the future. It is very happy here, as we have to have him."

Peter Rafferty, who has the Affiliation of Rangers Celtic Supporters' Club, has been asked to organise a campaign backing the committee led by Dalgleish and his colleagues. Rafferty is excited by the prospect of the takeover, but would prefer more details to emerge. He said: "We are

... need my position what happens after I leave. I have to be given the time to get my affairs in order. I have to be given the time to get my affairs in order. I have to be given the time to get my affairs in order.

... have the best of both worlds. I have the best of both worlds. I have the best of both worlds. I have the best of both worlds.

... the water subsidies nightmare begins

... the water subsidies nightmare begins

... the water subsidies nightmare begins

... the water subsidies nightmare begins

TODAY

Friday the 13th: lucky for some

Richard Morrison
page 35

Don't hide in the closet, says Raymond Snoddy, reveal all

FOOD & DRINK

Jane MacQuitty picks her 100 best wines for winter

media times: pages 39-42

Jagger: trapped in a soap opera

media times: pages 39-42

EVERY WEEKDAY
30p
FRIDAY

Prison staff called in as children go on the rampage



"Oh look, he's just smashed up his first cell"

BRITAIN'S first child jail is undergoing a sweeping overhaul during which young offenders wrecked classrooms, their rooms and kitchens. More than £100,000 has been spent replacing and repairing facilities at the purpose-built Medway Secure Training Centre at Rochester in Kent, an investigation by The Times has discovered.

Group 4, whose subsidiary Rebound runs the unit, has drafted in an eight-strong team of prison officers and other staff to reassert discipline and support intimidated staff. The scale of the problems facing

the centre, which houses 40 persistent young offenders aged 12 to 14 at a cost of £2,400 a week each, has emerged after the departure of 35 of the 100 staff — including the head of education and head of care. There have been 97 assaults on staff, 27 of whom needed medical treatment. The specially toughened bedroom windows have been replaced after the children smashed them with their fists and feet. Wooden doors reinforced with steel are being replaced after the wood was hacked away. CCTV cameras have been destroyed and all bedroom door locks replaced.

Children spend nearly 24 hours a day indoors because as soon as they are let out they run towards the

mesh security fences. Two have already managed to escape and one almost reached the M2 on foot. Razor wire has been considered for the top of the perimeter fence but there are fears that even this drastic step would not deter such determined children from attempting to escape. Classes sizes have been cut from five to two because the larger groups were uncontrollable, and children have been given designer clothing and access to computer games to keep the peace.

Mike Taylor, a former supervisor, said that Medway looked "like Beirut: kitchen cupboard doors ripped off, the plastic around the closed circuit television wrecked, the fridge door ripped off, bare wires where

they had torn light switches from the wall and the intercom system from their sockets". Another former supervisor said: "The children bite and kick and spit and headbutt you. We were like lambs to the slaughter. We were told to speak to them nicely. These are heavy-duty juvenile offenders". Last night MPs and penal reform groups demanded that Jack Straw review the operation of the centre and the policy of putting 12-14 year-olds in child jails, designed to Home Office specifications.

Fran Russell, assistant director of the Howard League for Penal Reform, said: "We believe the whole concept is flawed because you are placing the most difficult children in

an institution which is too big. They are being locked up and that just causes them to kick and kick hard". In spite of the difficulties that have engulfed Medway, the Government has ordered a rapid expansion of secure training centres. Rebound has already won a contract for one of two new centres opening next May. The Home Office wants future units to house up to 60 young criminals each.

Rebound is already including the lessons learned at Medway into the design and construction of its next centre in Northamptonshire. The third will be run by Premier Prisons at Medomsley in Co Durham. Rebound admits that it has faced enormous difficulties and been fac-

ed back by the disruptive behaviour of the children, many of whom cannot sit still or concentrate for five minutes. An extra tier of managers is being drafted in, a psychologist has been employed full-time and additional psychiatric support for the children is planned. A source said: "We have learnt a lot since opening in April. I do not think we should be criticised for learning, and learning very quickly and tackling things that went wrong. Of course, we concede we would have done things differently but we are dealing with the most disruptive children in the country".

Staff's misery, page 6

Revolt by Lords on party lists poll plan

By James Landale, Political Correspondent

THE House of Lords was last night locked in a battle of wills with the Government after peers threw out for a third time an attempt to restrict voter choice in next year's European elections.

Ministers accused peers of illegitimately challenging the constitutional superiority of the Commons and said the Bill introducing proportional representation might have to be dropped. But peers voted by 237 to 194 to give voters the right to back individual candidates in next summer's poll.

The Government insists on a so-called "closed list" system, in which voters would determine how many seats a party wins but the parties themselves would decide which individuals become MEPs. The three main parties have already selected most of their candidates and placed them on pre-ordered lists. Labour insisted the defeat was fresh evidence of why hereditary peers needed to be abolished. It said that without



A Jerusalem father helps his daughter try on a gas mask at one of the distribution centres opened in Israel as fears of an Iraqi retaliatory attack grew

Britons urged to leave Iraq as force looks 'inevitable'

By Michael Evans, Michael Binyon and Jill Sherman

ALL Britons were given a warning yesterday to leave Iraq and news organisations were told not to send journalists to the country as large-scale military attacks appeared inevitable.

At the same time, the Government issued a dossier to every MP outlining Iraq's secret weapons hoard and describing the potential threat from Iraq "if these programmes are left unchecked". In Israel, from where hundreds of British holidaymakers were being brought home by tour companies, the Israeli Army's Home Front Command opened 60 centres to distribute new and replacement gas masks and anti-chemical warfare kits to Israeli citizens.

UN weapons inspections. Tony Blair said "the next step is action" unless the Iraqi President agreed to co-operate. Mr Robertson told the Cabinet there was evidence Saddam had "weaponised" nerve agents and that deadly warheads could be produced. After the meeting, he spoke of the "sad inevitability" of force being used if the Iraqi leader did not back down soon.

The dossier to MPs, accompanied by a letter signed on behalf of Derek Fatchett, the Foreign Office Minister, and Doug Henderson, the Armed Forces Minister, stated that Saddam's weapons of mass destruction were a symbol of his power and prestige in the region and that he would rebuild his weapons programme unless stopped. It reminded the MPs that until 1995, the Iraqi leader had denied having an offensive biological weapons programme, adding: "The quantities of bio-

logical growth media that are unaccounted for are enough to produce more than three times the total amount of anthrax Iraq admits to producing". Unless stopped, the dossier said, Saddam would be capable of regenerating a chemical weapons capability within months, and a biological weapons capability "within weeks".

It continued: "A single Scud missile armed with a VX (nerve gas) warhead could cause thousands of casualties if it hit a crowded city". As a further sign of the increasing likelihood of a military strike by American and British forces, the Government urged Britons in Iraq to leave immediately, specifically naming journalists. Neither in 1991 before the last flare-up — in February — were journalists singled out.

The Foreign Office said the decision was at the request of ministers concerned that the Iraqis would not guarantee their safety. In another signal of imminent airstrikes, the Foreign Office announced that Robin Cook would cancel a proposed Middle East visit next week if he thought it pointless. He plans to go to Egypt and Saudi Arabia to try to persuade them to put pressure on Saddam — but only if it was felt that they could change Saddam's mind. Officials insisted there was no intention to seek basting rights.

However, at the Cabinet meeting, Mr Blair said there had been a change in the Arab world since Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General, fixed a last-minute deal with Saddam in Iraq earlier this year to avert US force — because of progress on Israeli-Palestinian peace talks and a realisation that Saddam was "becoming more unpredictable".

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INSIDE

New hope of Ulster deal

The Government opened the way for the first decommisioning of paramilitary weapons in Northern Ireland by formally recognising the Loyalist Volunteer Force's ceasefire.

Ms Mowlam's announcement raised hopes of a breakthrough in the deadlock over IRA disarmament that is preventing implementation of the peace accord. Page 2

Nursery pair in sex ring

Two nursery teachers who allegedly abused more than 60 children in their care — some as young as two — were probably part of a paedophile ring, an investigation of the Shieldfield nursery in Newcastle upon Tyne has concluded. Page 6

Expenses check

Church of England bishops are to have their expenses scrutinised to see if they really need £8 million a year for chauffeurs, gardeners, chaplains and secretaries. Page 5

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INSTRUMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS

Irish eyes frown on British wedding guests

By Audrey Magee, Ireland Correspondent

BRITISH men and women were barred yesterday from holding their pre-nuptial revelries in Dublin's trendy Temple Bar.

Thirty-four hotels and pubs in the centre of the Irish capital banned the rowdy stag and hen parties after a report revealed that their behaviour turns hundreds of other tourists off Dublin, costing businesses about £57 million a year.

The ban will be a blow to the thousands of Britons who every weekend go to Dublin weekend. The wedding parties, often dressed as priests, nuns or sexy nurses, start drinking in the morning, moving from pub to pub and becoming more raucous as the weekend wears on. Future brides and grooms are regularly stripped and tied to lamp-posts while their friends often pick fights with passers-by.

To the revellers, it is all good fun. But their behaviour, repeated every weekend, appals Dubliners who stay away from Temple Bar on Friday and Saturday nights.

Now tourism chiefs have discovered that the parties are putting off other visitors. A survey published yesterday found that 13 per cent of overseas visitors said the stag and hen weekends would discourage them from visiting Dublin — representing a £57 million loss in income each year.

The pubs and hotels have decided that the stag and hen parties are not worth the loss in custom, since they buy nothing but alcohol and spend little on accommodation. Three quarters of Dublin's hotels already refuse them rooms as they break bedroom furni-

VCARE
HEALTH INSURANCE

Lib-Dem who can make up his mind proves a noble exception

The Noble Exception had entered the Lords Chamber some time before the debate began, but already it was standing-room only. Peers littered the aisles and lounged against the railings. Some sat on the steps to the Throne, like travellers at a railway station. One (Lord Sewell) actually lay back on the Woolsock. Several sat in the gangways, one elderly baron getting down on to the floor with such difficulty that when a seat was finally vacated for him, he was unable to get up again. The Noble Ex-

ception surveyed the scene. Everybody was there — from the functional part of our Constitution, like the Archbishop of Canterbury, to the ceremonial part, like Melvyn Bragg. The dangerous part was there too, represented by Lord Tebbit. Inexplicably, Lord Donoghue, the late Harold Wilson's Head of Policy Unit, wore one black shoe and one white. Lord Williams of Mostyn, the fluent and divided minister whose cross it is to bear the European Parliamentary Elections Bill, stared

crossly into space: Baron Fed-Up. The Noble Exception needed a seat. Just in time for the start of the debate on closed lists, a seat was found on the Liberal Democrat benches. The Noble Exception sat down, looking tense. Lord Mackay of Ardbrecknish, a Conservative former-MP with a gracefully posh-Scotts accent, opened the baiting for their Lordships' mutinous amendment. He spoke with elegance and humour — and a light touch: for his task was to lure shy

and undomesticated Cross-benchers — creatures whom nobody owns, the *ferae naturae* of the Upper Forest — out of their wild wood and into an Opposition honey-trap. Down with "the Millbank Tendency"! The choice before peers was between "the people's choice and the party choice!" declared Lord Mackay, as scores of crusty

old Tory barons behind him thrilled to their new-found reverence for the popular will, memories of the Smith Square Tendency conveniently slipping their minds. Mackay coined a new phrase. Alongside new Labour he now discerned "new Liberal Democrats; for Paddy Ashdown's ermined cavalry, groaning under a post-pact

three-line whip, were grinding teeth and voting with the Government. Or, rather, most of them were. But, said Mackay, with "a few noble exceptions". The Noble Exception sat impassive, tense. After Mackay, Lord Shore of Stepney spoke well, exhorting the closed list, suddenly shouting words, as my Grandpa used to. Then he sat down, to an approving general moo. Glancing nervously at a note the Noble Exception rose. The Earl Russell had guessed that to rebel against

his Party's docility would cost him his front bench job as Social Security Spokesman, but he could not stomach the closed list. How should he vote? "I have never changed my mind so many times," said the Noble Exception. "I changed it five times yesterday," he went on, before deciding finally to vote against. "I had settled upon abstaining by lunch yesterday," he added — and for a moment we feared his Lordship might take us through each swing of the intellectual see-saw, wobble by wobble, like one of

those *Sunday Times* "anatomy of a crisis" diaries: 7.00am: Lord Russell breakfasts on Weetabix and toast, discussing vote with wife Elizabeth. 7.23: decides to buckle under. 8.15: telephones a friend and changes mind: post arrives... But he spared us the chronology. In a short speech as drolly undramatic as it was brave, he led us within minutes to his conclusion. He was to make trouble. He did. He was sacked from one of his jobs. Then he was unsacked. Somebody else can't make up their mind.



LVF arms move puts pressure on Sinn Fein

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Government opened the way yesterday for the first decommissioning of paramilitary weapons in Northern Ireland by formally recognising the six-month ceasefire of the Loyalist Volunteer Force. The announcement by Mr Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, raised hopes of a breakthrough in the deadlock over IRA disarmament that is preventing implementation of the Good Friday peace accord. The LVF has promised to decommission a "small but very real amount" of weaponry in front of the television cameras within two weeks of the Government recognising its ceasefire and making its two dozen prisoners eligible for early release. That will put intense pressure on the IRA to follow suit, enabling David Trimble finally to admit Sinn Fein to Northern Ireland's Government. However Sinn Fein's immediate reaction to Mr Mowlam's announcement last night was negative. It denied

LVF disarmament would put pressure on the IRA and said the LVF ceasefire had to be treated with "a huge dose of scepticism". Mitchell McLaughlin, Sinn Fein's chairman, said the Red Hand Defenders, a new Loyalist group that killed a Catholic in Belfast two weeks ago, was a "flag of convenience" for the LVF. Kenny McClinton, the terrorist-turned-pastor who speaks for the LVF, confirmed that LVF disarmament would begin "within a couple of weeks" and is to meet John de Chastelain, head of the international disarmament body, today. He challenged the IRA to match the LVF's disarmament on a one-to-ten ratio. "If you are looking at the thing from a totally honorable position, then the IRA have got to respond." Mr McClinton has said that all arrangements for the initial decommissioning of LVF weaponry have been agreed with General de Chastelain. LVF members delivering the

arms would have immunity. Mr McClinton would stay with the weapons until they were put into a metal shredder, probably in Belfast, to ensure there was no forensic testing. The first batch is likely to consist of a couple of AK-47 assault rifles and other firearms. David Trimble, the First Minister who had been pressing for yesterday's announcement, said he hoped this "positive step will lead to the start of decommissioning. It's now incumbent on everyone to exert what influence they have on the other paramilitary organisations to make a start." Andrew Mackay, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, said he backed the announcement. "This should set an example to other paramilitary groups who have been dragging their feet." Dr Mowlam said her decision was taken on the advice of her security advisers and was not politically motivated. She was satisfied the LVF had established "a complete and unequivocal ceasefire".



DIANA, Countess of Lindsay, holds her five-year-old son David at the British Red Cross Care in Crisis awards, where she received an award for saving the life of her son, who was lying unconscious in a water culvert. The people of Omagh - the Northern Ireland town ripped apart by a bomb earlier this year - were presented with a special community award. Representatives from the local Omagh hospital and council were today presented

with awards at a ceremony in London. Awards were also presented to 16 winners from all over the United Kingdom for individual acts of bravery and care. John McKinney, chief executive of Omagh District Council. Glynis Henry, senior nurse at Tyrone County Hospital and David Bolton, Director of Health and Personal Social Services Trust in Omagh collected the accolade on behalf of the town. The blast on August 15 killed 20 people and injured more than 200 others. The Real IRA said it carried out the attack. Celebrities Helen Mirren, Nerys Hughes, Claire Rayner, John Stapleton and Angela Rippon presented the awards.

Countess honoured for rescue

NEWS IN BRIEF

Doctor charged with two more murders

A doctor in Greater Manchester appeared before magistrates charged with murdering two more of his elderly female patients. Earlier yesterday police had exhumed a ninth body, Harold Shipman, 52, who runs a one-man practice in Hyde, Tameside, has been charged with killing Ivy Lomas, 63, and Marie Quinn, 67, in addition to four other murder charges. His appearance before Tameside magistrates came hours after detectives exhumed the body of Jean Lilley, 58, from Hyde cemetery. He was due to appear at court in seven days to be remanded but Dr Shipman was excused having to attend. A committal hearing was fixed for January 7. Dr Shipman, of Roe Cross Green, Mottram, is alleged to have killed Mrs Lomas on May 29 last year and Mrs Quinn on November 24. He spoke only briefly to confirm his name and address during the five-minute hearing. His wife Primrose, 51, sat at the back of the court.

Pinochet verdict delayed

The House of Lords has reserved judgment on whether General Pinochet enjoys, as a former head of state, immunity against charges of genocide, terrorism and torture. A panel of five senior law lords said that they would deliver their opinion "in due course" on the appeal by the Crown Prosecution Service on behalf of Spain against a High Court ruling that the former Chilean dictator's arrest was unlawful. The judgment is expected next week.

Fight to keep jail baby

A prisoner who gave birth under guard has launched a legal bid to stop her new-born baby being taken away from her in a test case over a mother's right to keep her child in jail. She is trying to block a decision to refuse her a place in the mother and baby unit at Holloway prison, North London. Miss E. 24, who may not be identified for legal reasons, is serving five years for wounding with intent after slashing the face of a rival.

Davies questioned further

Ron Davies, the former Welsh Secretary, has been questioned several more times by Scotland Yard detectives investigating his mugging on an estate in Brixton, South London. Investigators need Mr Davies to fill in gaps in his story that stretch over three or four hours. One man has been charged with robbery and another five people have been questioned before being freed on police bail. Today Mr Davies will face his constituency party to explain the events.

Umbrella coverage

People taking their summer holidays in Britain can now insure against rain. Rothwell and Towler, of Devon, will pay part of the cost of any holiday in which it rains on at least half the days. The cover will not cost holidaymakers any extra because it comes as part of a holiday-cancellation package sold through hotels for about £19 for a family. The policies are underwritten by Eagle Star and will cover all parts of the country, not just the drier south.

Severed spinal cord 'glued' together

By NIGEL HAWKES SCIENCE EDITOR

SCIENTISTS have repaired severed spinal cords by using a new technique to fuse the broken ends together. The development is so far confined to test-tube experiments with spinal cords from guinea pigs but is intended ultimately to benefit spinal injury victims such as the actor Christopher Reeve, who was paralysed in a riding accident. The researchers say it is the first time the severed spinal cords of mammals have been

given back their ability to transmit electrical nerve impulses. Spinal cords were removed from guinea pigs, cut, and fused together with polyethylene glycol, a water-soluble polymer used in medicines and cosmetics. Tests showed that all the repaired cords were able to conduct an electric current simulating nerve messages. Richard Borgens, professor of developmental anatomy at Purdue University, in West Lafayette, Indiana, said: "This technique is likely to be useful in treating recent injuries."

Whitehall considers more pay for good teachers

By VICTORIA FLETCHER AND JILL SHERMAN

TEACHERS' pay may be partly linked to their schools' results under radical proposals being considered by ministers, Whitehall sources said yesterday. Schools would be rewarded for reaching government targets, such as for improved exam results, reduced truancy and exclusions, and an increased number of pupils staying on at school after 16. It is thought that head teachers would be expected to feed

the extra money as bonuses into a "modernised" salary structure, to be outlined in a consultation document next month. Doug McAvooy, leader of the National Union of Teachers, said such a system would not be a fair measure of a teacher's skills. "The measure of quality of a teacher cannot be based on the results of pupils." However, Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lectur-

ers, said: "What's wrong with the country investing in success, given that we ensure that less successful schools are getting the money they need too?" Whitehall sources last night described reports of the scheme as "speculative" but confirmed that school results could play some part in determining teachers' pay. A tough new system of appraisal is expected to be the main method of setting teachers' pay.

Byideshead Revisited

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Bird-lover duck out

exception... could cost job as...

Slip of a pen gave away £90,000 fraud

By Helen Johnstone

A WOMAN with one O level who lied to get a top accountancy job was jailed yesterday for defrauding her employers out of almost £90,000 pounds to fund a lavish lifestyle...

thorised to deal with cheques up to the value of £15,000, carried out the frauds by using manually created cheques paid into her own account...

As well as buying cars, McGregor told the court that she used the money to pay off credit card debts and fund holidays...



Ferraro: used some of money to buy a Ferrari



The player who kills most pedestrians and animals fastest gets most points

Computer game firm tries to zap film censors

By Helen Johnstone

THE publishers of a controversial computer game have asked the High Court to force British film censors to classify it so that it can be in the shops in time for Christmas...

would force the BBFC to reach a decision on the trailer, which has now been with it for more than two months...



Barnden: said game was created for comic effect

NEWS IN BRIEF

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'Cock-up' put paid to £7m drug haul

By Adam Fresco

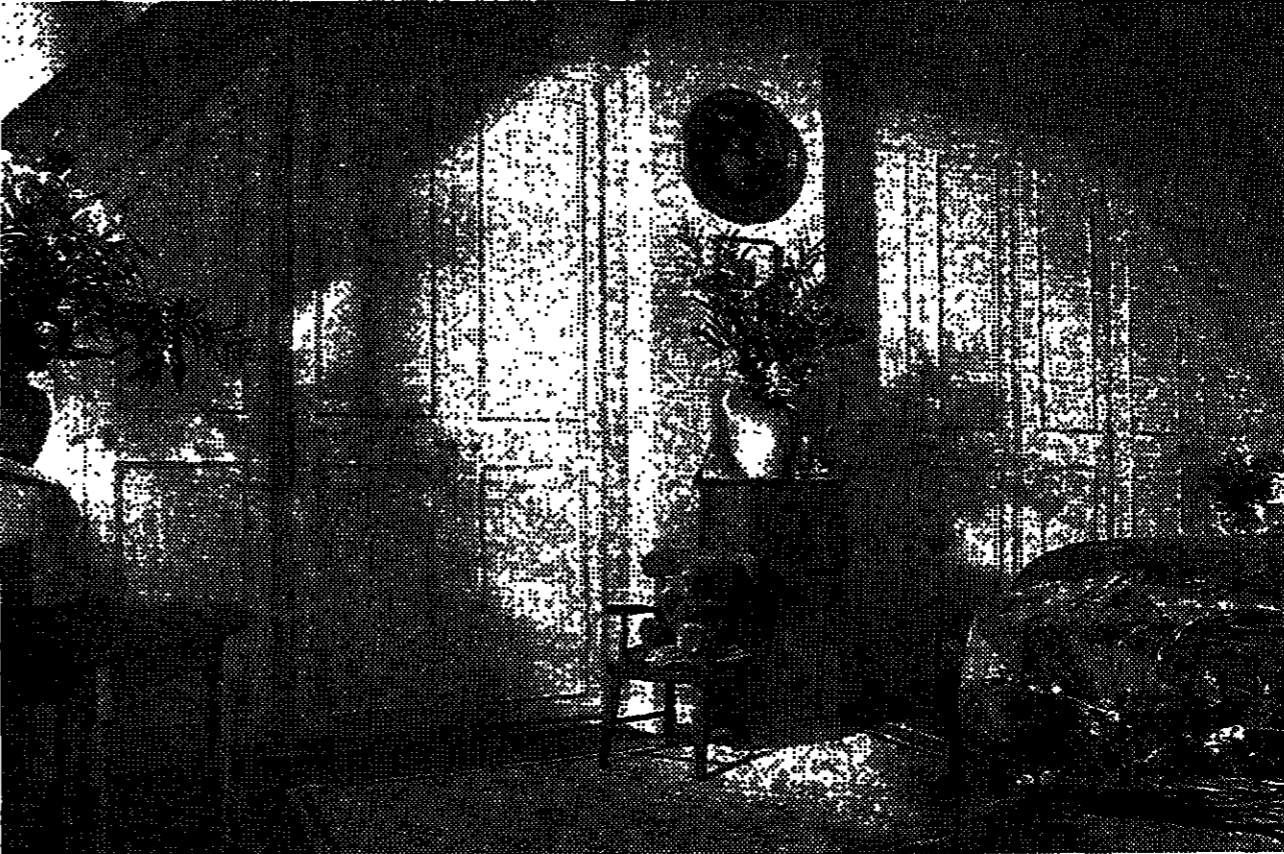
THE careers of a gang of drug smugglers came to an abrupt end when their lorry containing £7.23 million of heroin became wedged in the Blackwall Tunnel under the Thames causing traffic chaos...

Police look for fifth body in murder hunt

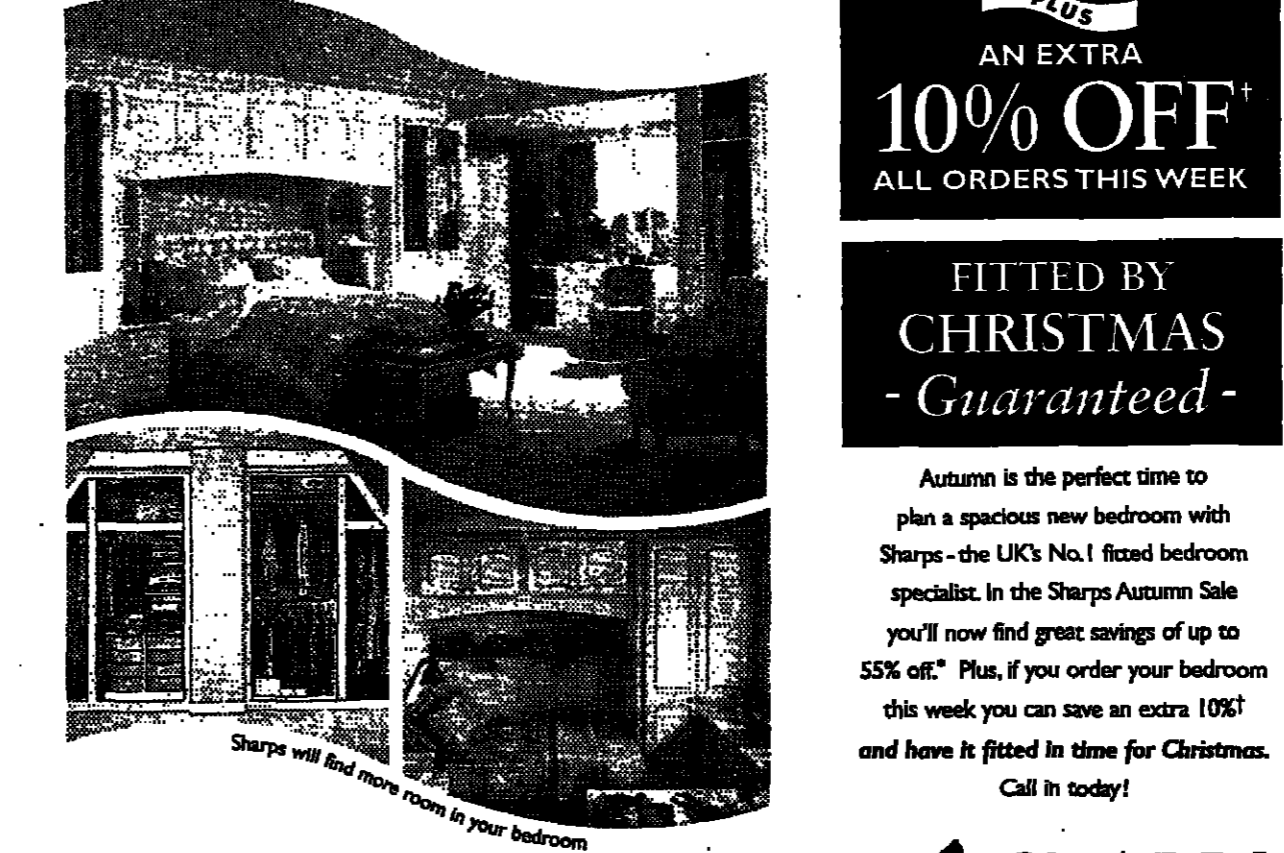
By Russell Jenkins

POLICE have been digging up barren moorland on the southern coast of the Isle of Man in part of a murder inquiry into the deaths of at least four pensioners...

quity, detectives want to find the owners of a large haul of jewellery which, they say, was found in several locations all linked to Mr Akimurele...



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Bird-lover manages to duck out of trouble

By Simon de Bruxelles

FEEDING the ducks on Sunday mornings in the park may never be the same again after a teenager encountered a less friendly creature lurking in the bushes...

the fine was rescinded by council officials. But they gave warning that in future anyone caught feeding the birds could face the same penalty...

morgan, said: "I was amazed when he fired me. I often feed the ducks. I tried to be polite but he wouldn't listen to me. There's no way I could afford to pay £25 because I'm in college."

StMichael

P A R T I W H E R E



Velvet devere top. Was £40, now £25

Leather shoes. Were £110, now £75

MARKS & SPENCER
winter value

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Church is to check bishops' £8m expenses

THE expenses of the Church of England's bishops are to be scrutinised to see if they really need nearly £8 million a year to pay for chauffeurs, gardeners, chaplains and teams of secretaries.

The wide-ranging review will examine their "staffing and equipment needs" for the next millennium.

It was set up by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and follows growing concern at the rising costs of maintaining the church's 108 bishops, many of whom live in large palaces.

The cost of episcopal administration, paid by the church commissioners, has risen from £3.9 million in 1988 to £8.1 million last year. £4.9 million was spent on staffing costs and £3 million on other working expenses.

Meanwhile, the amount of money given by the commissioners to support the ministry of the country's 9,500 stipendiary clergy fell from £57.4 million to £19.5 million between 1988 and 1997.

The cost of clergy pensions has almost doubled over the same period, to £82.1 million, a sum paid entirely by the commissioners.

Most of the bishops' expenses — 84 per cent — goes on staff and the rest on equipment, hospitality and travel. Diocesan bishops receive the heating, lighting, cleaning, house and garden items they need to keep the business of being a bishop running smoothly and efficiently.

All working costs will be examined to establish the bishops' staffing and equipment needs for the next century. A spokesman for the church commissioners said: "The review is to do with working costs, it is not to do with fringe benefits."

"Bishops do not receive fringe benefits. The bishops' costs are a statutory charge on the commissioners. If we did

Review will look at staff needs and living costs for the next century, writes Ruth Gledhill

not meet them, the dioceses would have to meet them. Everyone is trying to make sure the resources are used in the best possible way."

The wide-ranging review, launched by Dr Carey along with the Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, will be chaired by Anthony Mellows, emeritus professor of law at London University and a committed Anglican.

Professor Mellows described the review as "vital to the future good of the Church's ministry."

He said: "I am assembling a team with comprehensive expertise and broad experience. I am especially pleased to serve in this way the leaders of the Church in which I have so happily worshipped for so many years."

The working party will not consider the subject of bishops' stipends, which average

out at between £23,000 and £27,000, nor housing. Neither will it look at the costs of bishops' palaces, currently being scrutinised in a separate review which is nearing completion.

Instead, the independent committee, which has been set up outside the auspices of the church commissioners, will concentrate on "resource needs facing the leadership of the Church of England for the new millennium and beyond."

Professor Mellows will report directly to the two Archbishops in 2000.

Norman Baker, Liberal Democrat MP for Lewes, who has asked at least ten oral and written questions in the House of Commons on the subject of bishops' expenses, welcomed the review.

He said: "It is hardly consistent with the Christian ethic for bishops to cost so much and to employ chauffeurs and gardeners. A more modest lifestyle would better reinforce the basic tenets of Christianity."

A spokeswoman for Dr Carey, who has one personal secretary and seven senior staff, all with their own secretaries, said the review was not intended to examine bishops' current expenses.

She said: "This is a proactive move to make sure the Church of England is properly resourced for the new millennium."

She said not all bishops had drivers, some preferring to drive themselves. Those who did have drivers used their time in the back of the car to write sermons or catch up on administrative and other essential work.

She added: "This is a very positive look at the Church's ministry at a time of growing demand."

"It is not looking at what they are using now, it is looking at what they are going to need in future in terms of staffing and equipment."

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education

emphasised, however, that there was "no evidence that individual students have been awarded degrees they should have failed".

Once granted by the Privy Council, a university's degree-awarding powers cannot be withdrawn. Instead, the agency said the university required "independent supervision to direct its recovery and secure the standard of its awards".

The Higher Education Funding Council for England today appointed a team led by Sir William Taylor, former vice-chancellor of the University of Hull, and Mr Quentin Thompson, of the accountants PricewaterhouseCoopers, to oversee an action plan for the university. It will involve monthly checks on the financial viability of the university, at which the intake of undergraduates this year was 30 per cent below target.

But too many children from ethnic minorities were underperforming. "If you are black or of Pakistani or Bangladeshi origins, your chance of gaining five good GCSEs is half that of white pupils."

He said that the money would go directly to schools to enable them to employ more teachers and teaching assistants to work with their local communities.

The Education Department said that bilingual classroom assistants would not teach pupils in their native language but they would be able to help those who were struggling to understand English.

Statistics show that only 23 per cent of Pakistani/Bangladeshi and black young people gain at least five GCSEs at grades A-C compared with 46 per cent of whites. Indians and Chinese, however, perform better than whites.

Leading article, page 23



Mike Fitzgerald encouraged students to teach themselves. Inspectors said standards were the worst they had come across

By VICTORIA FLETCHER

BRITAIN'S youngest and most eccentric university vice-chancellor, who sported feathery bleached hair and a lozenge-shaped earring, yesterday resigned from Thames Valley University after becoming the first victim of a new quality inspection team.

Mike Fitzgerald, 47, whose rare sense of coiffure won him the title of worst haircut on television, established his zany reputation after endorsing diplomas in kite flying and rock music and encouraging the university to sponsor a Brentford FC football match.

But yesterday higher education watchdogs declared that standards at the university were the worst they had ever come across and were now "under threat".

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education

Vice-chancellor quits as university fails inspection

has said there was evidence that the university, based at campuses in Ealing and Slough, fell short of the criteria for awarding its own degrees. It stated that "it is vital steps are taken urgently to protect the interests of current students and to secure public confidence in the university".

During his seven-year tenure at the university, formerly the Polytechnic of West London, Mr Fitzgerald pioneered a revolutionary style of learning, in which pupils taught themselves at their own pace.

It caused outrage among staff. Upon reading the report, which sources at the agency described as the most "distinctly unusual" they had written, Mr Fitzgerald stepped down. "I have done this in the interests of the university and its continuing development," he said.

The report found "some evidence that the university may have lost sight of some basic principles of quality assurance which should be commonplace in an institution with independent degree-awarding powers". The QAA

Extra cash for schools to hire bilingual helpers

By VICTORIA FLETCHER

SCHOOLS with a large number of ethnic minority pupils are to be given extra money to employ bilingual classroom assistants, the Government announced yesterday.

Schools will also be expected to draw up action plans of how to improve their teaching of such children.

David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, said that an extra £430 million is to be spent on the teaching of minorities over the next three years after extensive research has shown that black and Asian pupils are more likely to underperform than their white counterparts. Specific help for these groups, which had already cost £138.5 million this year, was vital to raising standards.

"Children from ethnic minorities are an important and vibrant part of today's Britain and it is vital that we ensure they have the same opportunities as everyone else," he said. "Many Asian children achieve very good results — better than average."

But too many children from ethnic minorities were underperforming. "If you are black or of Pakistani or Bangladeshi origins, your chance of gaining five good GCSEs is half that of white pupils."

He said that the money would go directly to schools to enable them to employ more teachers and teaching assistants to work with their local communities.

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Leading article, page 23

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Jail staff tell of misery inflicted by children

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY AND RICHARD FORD

IT WAS a brave experiment: take some of the toughest children in the country, put them together into a caring domestic environment, and encourage them to face up to the errors of their ways.

The philosophy of Britain's first privately run children's jail was summarised in the name of the Group 4 company which runs it — Rebound ECD, standing for Education, Care, Discipline.

Hopes were high when the first children, aged 12 to 14, arrived in April. The staff of 100 had been carefully chosen for their cool tempers. Some were custody officers, social workers, teachers and nurses. Others wanted to work with children, their only previous experience being leading Scout packs.

Seven months on, the Medway Secure Training Centre in Rochester, Kent, is in turmoil. When the children, who had to be addressed as "trainees" rather than "inmates", arrived they expected a harsh regime.

"They were all really frightened and scared," said a woman supervisor, who left after being thumped by a girl. "We were all very naive and idealistic. We were told that they

would be disturbed children and that we would be able to make a difference to them."

Mike Taylor, 46, a training supervisor who was paid £17,000 a year, said: "My job was to deliver a crime-avoidance programme. It was supposed to be an hour a day. They just said, 'F--- off, we're not doing it.' They ripped the paper up, broke pens or pencils and tipped the tables over."

"The only way I could get their attention was to ask them to tell me about crime. They educated me about fake Rolexes and burglary."

"I watched a young man completely trash a classroom. He broke every pane of glass after barricading a door and then went on to break tables, chairs and filing cabinets. He used a leg broken from a table as a weapon and gouged plaster out of the wall."

"I got bitten three times by a girl who chewed my left arm because I told her not to pull a blind down."

He left in July because of family problems. "When it first started they had high ideals but I became disappointed because the back-up was not there, and we were not prepared for dealing with such violent young people."

Another ex-employee said: "The place was built like a school and unfortunately it should have been built like a prison."

Up to 40 children are looked after in two banana-shaped, two-storey blocks. Their rooms, which staff are forbidden from calling cells, have en-suite showers. Some of the children have left taps running all day, after blocking the drains with paper to cause floods.

"We took the knobs off the cookers so they used their teeth to turn the cookers on and set fire to paper," an ex-employee said.

They are allowed outdoors only when moving between buildings, in case they try to escape over the two perimeter fences, which are 4.8 metres high. Two children escaped by scaling the fine mesh fences, taking only three minutes, as staff watched in astonishment.

The regime was flawed because the staff who were expected to nurture the children also had to lock them in their rooms. "You had to be everything: their care worker, their friend, *in loco parentis*, and you still had to bang them up at night whether they wanted to go or not," said the woman ex-employee.

A riot in June proved the turning point. A supervisor said: "I cheered when the police arrived." The officers wore riot gear and brought dogs. The staff were in their uniforms. "The police were amazed that we were supposed to deal with it in a green polo shirt and a pair of beige trousers."

Afterwards, prison warders from Liverpool were brought in. A former supervisor said: "You know what prison officers do: they get you in a hold and they can hurt you. They are the only ones the kids have any respect for."

A spokeswoman for Rebound denied that prison officers used extra force: "There are very clear rules of engagement because of the age group. The children know their rights."



Sue Clifton, director of the Medway Secure Training Centre, with staff in their uniforms. Police wore riot gear when they were called to the unit



Each "trainee" has a room with en-suite shower

Last resort for boy who kept defying the law

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

LEE is 14 and already has a criminal record stretching back years.

He arrived at the training centre after being convicted of 16 serious offences including burglary, theft, assault and taking and driving away. A further 51 other offences were taken into consideration by magistrates who ordered him to attend Medway Secure Training Centre.

Lee had seven previous convictions but for years had regarded himself as beyond the reach of the law. He believed that he was "untouchable".

He had previously been given three supervision orders, a community sentence that is the last chance before being locked up. Under the supervision order an offender is required to attend courses, such

as drug treatment, or can be given tuition at home.

Lee had been formally breached twice for failing to comply with the terms of the order and had a long history of running away from local authority homes. His youth justice worker wrote in a presentence report that there was a risk that he would reoffend unless he was put in a secure environment.

In spite of this warning to the court, the report said: "I would ask the court to consider dealing with him by means of a new supervision order."

Lee (which is not his real name) had minimum contact with his mother. Although she was supportive of him, she recognised that he was beyond her control. He had had no contact with his father for sev-

eral years. The case is typical of the 60 children aged 12-14 who have been through Medway.

Many are illiterate, though adept at using computers. One 13-year-old had been playing truant, or been excluded from school, for six years.

Figures show that on average each of the 60 children had spent three years either playing truant or excluded from school before arriving at Medway and each had been convicted of an average seven serious offences. One 12-year-old had 15 convictions.

Fifty-four of the 60 had been in care immediately before being sent to Medway. Forty-five of the 54 had run away from care in the past and 42 of the 54 had records of violence.

DAY IN THE LIFE OF A YOUNG OFFENDER

Monday to Friday

7.30: woken by staff, bedrooms tidied, breakfast.
8.50: gym and lessons.
10.30: mid-morning break.
12.00: back to living units.
12.15: two units lunch, two others wash and iron clothes.
12.50: two other units to lunch.
13.20-13.30: inmates escorted back to education block.
16.30-17.15: back in house unit, homework, supervised visits.
17.15: evening meal.
18.30: social education aimed at improving communication skills, learn teamwork sports.

18.30-20.30: supervised visits.

20.30: inmates back to living units.
20.30-21.30: supper. Meetings with staff on achieving targets.
21.30: bedtime.
22.00: lights out.

Weekend routine

8.00: woken, beds made, breakfast, dishes washed.
9.00-21.00: work to deal with anti-social behaviour, family visits, five-a-side football, basketball and individual counselling.
21.00: meetings with trainers to look at problems.
22.00: lights out.

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Ministers to outlaw 'cannibal' pig feed

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

TIGHTER controls on feed for pigs and poultry were proposed by the Government yesterday to prevent the possible recycling of disease.

The proposals would ban the use of the remains of any mammals in pig swill and stop pig slaughterhouse waste and petfood waste being fed to pigs.

The Government is also consulting on whether to continue allowing catering waste containing pig or poultry material to be fed to pigs and poultry.

Jeff Rooker, the Food Safety Minister, said the measures would strengthen existing safeguards on the disposal of animal waste.

"We want to make sure that all those involved in the processing and disposal of animal waste understand their responsibilities," he said.

New construction and hygiene standards are also being proposed for knackers' yards, where injured livestock are disposed of.

The measures reflect heightened concern about animal feeding practices since the emergence of BSE, particularly the "cannibalism" involved in feeding animals the remains of their own species.

BSE is thought to have passed to cattle in feed containing the remains of sheep infected with scrapie, and then to have been spread through the cattle herd in meat and bone-meat made from cattle remains. Such feed has been banned for cattle and sheep since 1988.

Nigel Rowe, a pig farmer in Essex and vice-chairman of

the National Farmers' Union's pig committee, said: "I do not think that these measures will add to our costs or cause any great problems as most pig farmers will be complying with them already."

The Government also yesterday called on sheep farmers to co-operate in a survey to establish the incidence of scrapie, a disease similar to BSE.

About 500 cases of scrapie, a notifiable disease, are confirmed each year but it is suspected that the true incidence of the disease may be up to ten times higher.

Scrapie has existed for centuries without causing humans known harm, but scientists are worried that BSE may have passed from cattle to sheep and be disguised as scrapie.

The European Commission yesterday called for a ban on the use of four antibiotics in animal feed. The Commission said it was acting on evidence that the antibiotics, used mainly as growth promoters in pigs and poultry, may be linked to growing human resistance to the drugs.

The NFU said: "We would be concerned by an immediate ban on these antibiotics, which could affect the welfare of pigs and poultry. We have seen no hard scientific evidence that their use has caused antibiotic-resistance in humans." Veterinary officials will decide later in the year whether to impose a ban.

The EU has already banned 15 antibiotics from animal feed. The new four are bacitracin, zinc, spiramycin, virginiamycin and tylosin phosphate.



Choristers from the Royal Opera gathered outside 10 Downing Street yesterday to stage a musical protest for more funds for the house (Dalya Alberge writes). Simon Callow, the actor and director, and Sir Edward Downes, the house's principal conductor, also joined in the rendition of *The Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves*, from Verdi's *Nabucco*. A petition with 15,000 signatures was handed in to the Prime Minister, calling for public funding to prevent the temporary closure of the Royal Opera and Royal Ballet next year. Staff, who are at loggerheads with the management over pay

A chorus of complaint from opera

and working-hours, held placards — including one that read "Save the ROH Chorus — chorus of slaves". Sir Edward said the lack of public funds for the house was "a national disgrace, an act of cultural vandalism"; meanwhile, he added, the Government was backing pop groups "who will be forgotten in three years". Mr Callow said he was dismayed at the Government's attitude — that "these things don't matter".

Well-heeled kick off show to aid homeless

By HELEN RUMBELOW

CELEBRITIES were overshadowed last night by those that had carried them to power: their training shoes.

The stars may come and go but there will always be others to fill their shoes, said the organisers of the first art exhibition featuring trainers, which opened yesterday.

In a West London art gallery the trainers donated by 20 celebrities are displayed in see-through acrylic boxes. Others are valuable examples from the 20-year history of the trainer. These souped-up pimsolls have names as famous as almost all of the people whom they have sprung to fame.

Melanie Chisholm from the Spice Girls has signed her £80 Air Max, an unusual red and black version that she customised with elastic underneath the laces for the quick costume changes on the band's world tour. Sharron Spiteri, from the pop group Texas, a self-confessed trainer addict, donated an extremely rare prototype from Fila, one of only ten in the world and with an unknown sale value.

Noel Gallagher of Oasis gave away the cheapest pair, Converse All Stars that he got for £30. On the side is scrawled: "Quite sane was here."

One pair of ten-year-old scruffy pimsolls that look like many hanging around everyone's garage is actually worth more than £2,000. They are a rare pair of Nike Jordans called Jordan Mark One, which were produced in a short run before the official contract with their namesake, the basketball star Michael Jordan was signed.

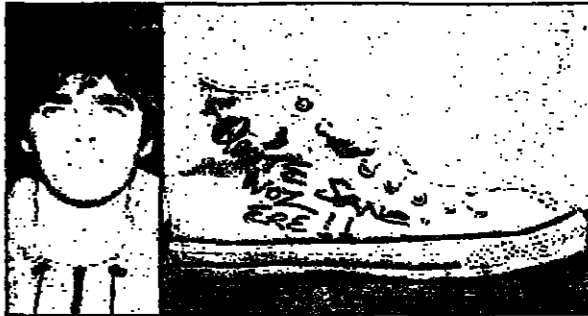
However, they are not quite as revolting as Damien Hirst's offerings. He gave some shoes so toxic that they had to be delivered in a plastic bag. "He said he thought they would look really great



Melanie Chisholm and her customised £80 Air Max



The adidas Trident TRs donated by the DJ Zoe Ball



Noel Gallagher gave his £30 Converse All Stars

mounted in the Perspex boxes," said Alan Grant, who with his brother James has organised the exhibition at the Notting Hill Arts Club. "But we would have needed to seal them off anyway because of the smell."

They expect to raise hundreds of pounds in auction for the Centrepoint homeless charity at the end of the month. It is testament to how

"much more than mere performance-orientated coverings for your feet", trainers have become a rise and fall charted in a first unauthorised celebrity biography of the shoe. Sneakers, Size Isn't Everything, charts the life, looks, and lovers of the trainer, and perhaps even its death. For this year Nike revealed its first loss in a decade.

Save our hedges, say MPs

By OUR AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BETTER protection of hedges, stone walls and other field boundaries is needed to avert the risk of a "broken and dispersed" countryside, MPs said yesterday.

A report by the Commons environment sub-committee criticised current law on the subject as "confusingly piecemeal and bureaucratic" and "arbitrary and inequitable".

The MPs called for more cash to pay farmers for the repair of traditional field boundaries and said that farm subsidies should be conditional on farmers observing a duty of care to maintain basic hedge and wall maintenance.

They also recommended the provision of more practical advice to farmers on how to manage field boundaries, and said that more people should be trained in hedge-laying and drystone-wall building.

Hogg 'wanted an inquiry into BSE'

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

CONSERVATIVE ministers rejected a proposal for a judicial inquiry into the handling of the BSE affair in early 1996, it emerged yesterday.

The recommendation came from Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, who argued that public pressure for such an investigation would become irresistible. Richard Packer, the top civil servant at the Ministry of Agriculture, told the inquiry into BSE that was set up two years later by the Labour Government.

Mr Packer also disclosed that the Tory Government had considered, but rejected, the possibility of withdrawing all beef stocks from shops after the discovery that BSE, or "mad cow" disease, had probably passed to humans.

Mr Hogg made his recommendation in a confidential letter to John Major on March 18, 1996, two days before Stephen Dorrell, then Health Secretary, told Parliament of

the likelihood that BSE-infected beef had caused ten cases of a new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

"I believe that it is inevitable that we will need to accept an inquiry into the Government's reaction to BSE, probably headed by a High Court judge," Mr Hogg wrote. "The pressure for a more formal judicial investigation is likely to prove irresistible." He went on to suggest that there would "be advantage in taking the initiative and proposing one ourselves". Mr Packer noted in his evidence that "the proposal proved unacceptable to ministers collectively".

Mr Packer, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture since 1993, rejected suggestions by Sir Kenneth Calman, the former Chief Medical Officer, that the ministry had been complacent about failure by abattoirs to ensure that no potentially infected parts entered the food chain.

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Nursery staff 'were part of child sex ring'

By PAUL WILKINSON

TWO nursery teachers who allegedly abused more than 60 children in their care were probably part of a paedophile ring, an investigation has concluded. Some of the victims were under two.

The inquiry into the activities of Christopher Lillie and Dawn Reed at the Shieldfield nursery in Newcastle upon Tyne during the early 1990s condemns the city council for the slack way it ran the school and monitored its staff.

Parents of at least 27 of the children now plan to bring legal action against the council for negligence.

The inquiry accuses the council of offering "little more than a poor child-minding service" and ignoring the concerns of parents who feared that their children were being abused. Its social services department had a "complacent and insular" attitude.

References were not checked thoroughly, records were either lost or not kept and senior managers at the nursery failed to question why Lillie or Reed removed children for alleged trips. The inquiry heard evidence that the children were taken to Lillie's home and other houses in Newcastle, where they were abused and videoed



Reed, above, and Lillie were sacked by council



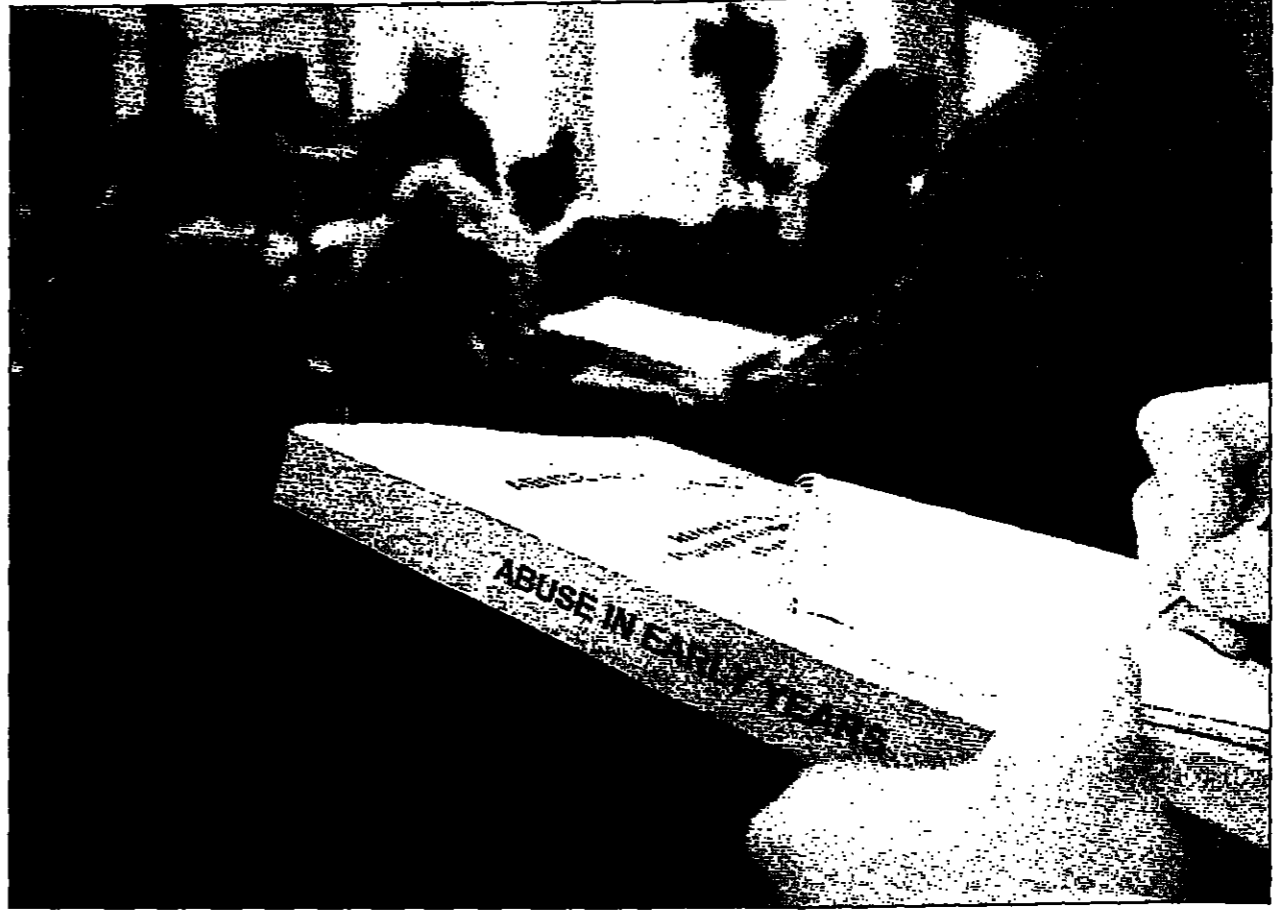
in July 1994. The judge at the trial, Mr Justice Holland, ruled that the video evidence of the four-year-old girl, the oldest of the alleged victims, was inadmissible because of her age. The prosecution then offered no evidence.

Reed and Lillie were sacked for gross misconduct by the city council. They are both believed to still be living on Tyne-side. Reed has since married and Lillie is understood to have changed his name.

In a 350-page report published yesterday, an independent team headed by Richard Barker, head of the Division of Child Family Studies at the University of Northumbria in Newcastle, found that more than 1,400 children came into contact with the two during their time at the nursery.

The team concludes that Lillie "took every opportunity to abuse the children" and that Reed "was party to it". The report adds: "As well as Christopher Lillie and Dawn Reed, it is clear that others outside the nursery were involved in abusing children for their own gratification and probably also for the production of pornographic material. These people have never been found."

The review, which has taken four years to complete, was launched after the court case



At a press conference unveiling the report yesterday, Newcastle council was criticised for its complacent attitude

collapsed four years ago. It says that there was confusion over Lillie's qualifications and doubts about his referees, but no police checks were made about either's background. Lillie had been the probable victim of abuse when he was in care as a child.

It accuses Newcastle social services of "lamentable" management of its nurseries. The report also concludes that the nursery was run for the convenience of the staff and not the children, staff failed to recognise the distress among

the abused children, and that there was a failure to recognise the high number of so-called "accidents" that took place under the care of the abusers. One accident report book covering the period immediately before the abuse came to light has disappeared.

The team say that the four managers at Shieldfield, Peter Blythe, Joyce Eyeington, Susan Eyeington and Audrey Palmer, "must take some responsibility". The report adds: "Children's problems, even ones clearly indicative of sexu-

al abuse, were generally blamed on their families which resulted in abuse by nursery staff being undetected for longer than should have been the case and for some parents being inappropriately suspected of abuse.

"Staff were poorly trained in the nursery in relation to child protection and there appear to be no records kept of which staff had received training." The nursery had been "a vulnerable environment which Reed and Lillie had manipulated for their own purposes".

Tony Flynn, the leader of Newcastle council, said last night: "We have written to all concerned offering them the facility of our careline for support and advice and this is open to any parent or carer involved. There are lessons to be learnt by everyone concerned with child protection."

A spokesman for the Department of Health said that it had asked Newcastle City Council to provide it with an action plan detailing how it intended to respond to the inquiry's 75 recommendations.

'The wonderful years of his growing up have been stolen'

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE mother of a boy said to have been abused at the Shieldfield nursery said yesterday that she had been robbed of his years as a child.

He had started at the nursery in 1991 aged 18 months while his mother, a single parent now-45, was at work. Today he is in a special school after developing behavioural problems, which his mother blames on the abuse he suffered.

"He talks about sex in the way you might expect a teenager to talk," she said. "He wants to touch me" and his

grown-up sister and makes comments about our bodies. I am afraid to cuddle him for what he might do. We cannot go out socially.

"He was my little baby, I have had those wonderful years of his growing up taken away from me."

The mother said: "I believed my little boy was being looked after, but I began to be worried when he would come home in girl's clothing. When I asked why I was fobbed off with a story that he had wet himself or spilt food, but his clothes were never returned."

"One day when I went in to the nursery they were chang-



The Shieldfield nursery: the inquiry report described it as a vulnerable environment

ing his nappy. When I went into the room there was a panic and they tried to order me out, but I refused to go and I watched them carefully. They all looked very flustered. "I cannot believe that no

one acted sooner. My son's life has been ruined. We live day by day. He sees a psychologist for five minutes every three months but that is not enough."

Another woman, aged 43, whose daughter was two when she was abused, said: "I will never understand as long as I live how these two people could get away with this type of abuse. When we visited the nursery we saw what we

thought was a safe and well-run establishment."

The girl's father, 44, said: "Our daughter will be eight on Saturday and, although this happened nearly six years ago, we are still feeling it."

The mother, whose small son was the first to talk about what was happening also spoke. Her child was two years and five months when he started at the nursery and suffered abuse for 11 months before it was uncovered.

The mother, 50, said: "My son is a very bright little boy. He was screaming at night, he became aggressive, even towards me and some nights he

would not even come into our own house after leaving nursery. He kept talking about having another mummy and kept wanting to know if I was his real mummy."

"Thankfully I picked up on certain things that he said. At last he told me they were hurting his bottom. Over the next few weeks I found out more and more from him."

"He had been carted around the homes of other perverts. Reed and Lillie were not the only people to abuse him. He spoke of a man in a wheelchair and another person he referred to as 'just a daft man'."

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A history of Britain in 48 stamps

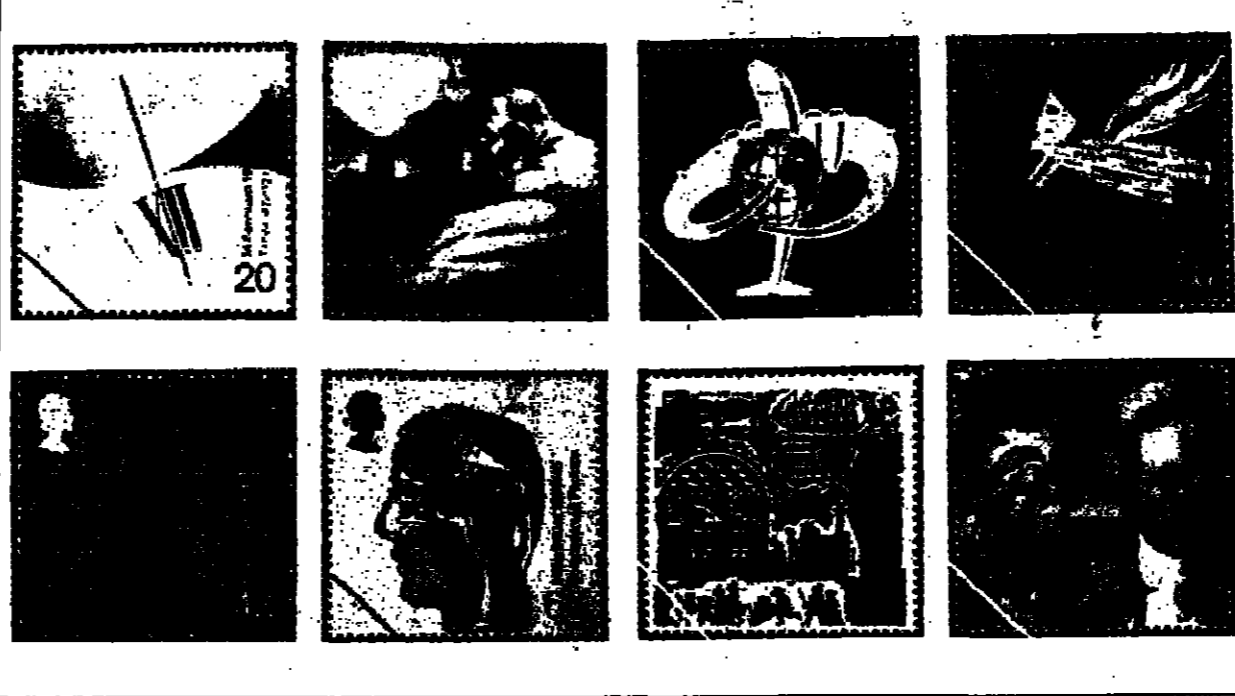
Monarchy is ignored in a new issue marking achievements of past 1,000 years, reports Mark Henderson

A DALEK, a tattooed Maori, a potato and Freddie Mercury have been chosen ahead of kings, queens, poets and painters to mark 1,000 years of British history in the Royal Mail's millennium stamp collection.

The series launched yesterday is devoted to celebrating Britain's achievements, and is the biggest collection ever released in this country. It comprises 12 sets totalling 48 stamps, each on a different theme. Each stamp will be designed by one of Britain's foremost artists, such as Antony Gormley, David Hockney and Sir Eduardo Paolozzi. Damien Hirst was invited to take part but turned the offer down because he was too busy.

The subjects, however, chosen by Jeremy Black, Professor of History at the University of Exeter, are bound to cause controversy. Royalty has been almost completely ignored, and there are few traditional "great men".

Robert Bruce is the only King to get a stamp in his own right. James I gets in via the



Clockwise from top left: timekeeping, steam power, jet travel, liberation, Cook, transport links, computers and photography

by the artist Andrzej Klimowski, and the potato is an example of new foods on the design by Tessa Traeger.

Peter Jennings, a stamp expert and fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London, said he was "bitterly disappointed" by the Royal Mail's choices.

"Major landmarks in British history are notable by their absence," he said. "There is no battle of Hastings or Waterloo, yet there are some extraordinarily obscure things there."

Professor Black said that he had deliberately avoided too narrow a focus on political and military history. "I know some people will be upset that there is no Waterloo and no Queen Victoria, but we were not trying to present a political narrative," he said. "We have gone for themes that show the development of Britain and the people who live here, the things that have changed the quality of people's lives."

The stamps will be issued in batches of four every month next year.

THE MILLENNIUM TALES

Themes that sum up millennium Britain (artist's name in brackets):

- Inventors' Tale (January)** Timekeeping and the Meridian (David Gentleman); steam power (Peter Howson); photography (Zafer and Barbara Baran); computers — Alan Turing (Sir Eduardo Paolozzi).
- Travelers' Tale (February)** Jet travel — Sir Frank Whittle and de Havilland (George Harle); the bicycle (Sara Fanelli); locomotion — Isambard Kingdom Brunel (John Lawrence); Captain Cook (Andrzej Klimowski).
- Patients' Tale (March)** Vaccination — Edward Jenner (Peter Brookes); patient care — Florence Nightingale (Susan Macfarlane); penicillin — Alexander Fleming (Mike Dempsey); in-vitro fertilisation (Antony Gormley).
- Settlers' Tale (April)** The Normans (John Byrne); The Pilgrim Fathers (Wilson McLean); emigration and colonisation (Jeff Fisher); immigration and Windrush (Gay Powell).
- Workers' Tale (May)** Weaving (Peter Collingwood); the mill (David Hockney); shipbuilding (Bill Sanderson); the City of London (Brendan Neiland).
- Entertainers' Tale (June)** Live Aid — Freddie Mercury (Peter Blake); Dr Who — Daleks (Justin Mortimer); Bobby Moore — as Roy of the Rovers (Mike White); Charlie Chaplin (Ralph Steadman).
- Citizens' Tale (July)** The right to vote — suffragettes (Natasha Kerr); the right to health — sanitation (Michael Craig-Martin); the right to learn — Robert Owen (Alan Drummond); Magna Carta (Alan Kitching).
- Scientists' Tale (August)** DNA (Mike Curtis); Darwin (Ray Harris Ching); electricity (Colin Gray); Newton (to be confirmed).
- Farmers' Tale (September)** Strip farming (David Triss); mechanised farming — Jethro Tull (Christopher Wormell); new foods — the potato (Tessa Traeger); farmland by satellite (Richard Cooke).
- Soldiers' Tale (October)** Robert the Bruce (Andrew Davidson); the Civil War (Rod Kelly); war graves (Don McCullin); peacekeeping (Christopher Carr).
- Christians' Tale (November — Christmas Stamps)** The Nativity (Craig Atchison); John Wesley (Brody Nevenshwander); the King James Bible (Clare Melinsky); St Andrew's Cathedral (Catherine Yass).
- Artists' Tale (December)** Performing arts — Shakespeare (Allen Jones); music (Bridget Riley); visual arts (Howard Hodgkin); final stamp to be confirmed.

Nurses go nutty for good health

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

EATING plenty of nuts can cut the risk of heart disease, an American study has shown.

Nurses who ate nuts five times a week had a 35 per cent lower risk of heart disease when compared with those who ate them less than once a month.

The data, published in the *British Medical Journal*, come from a study of 86,000 women, mostly nurses, between 1980 and 1990. Researchers from Harvard School of Public Health followed their health and asked them what they ate.

The beneficial effect of the nuts may come from the unsaturated fats they contain, the team speculates. Alternatively, it may be that nut-eating is a "marker" for a healthy lifestyle that includes exercise and fruit as well as nuts.

The team corrected for these confounding factors as far as they could and found that the beneficial effect of nuts persisted. They conclude that nuts can be considered part of a healthy diet.

In a commentary in the journal, Professor Hugh Tunstall-Pedoe, of Dundee University, says the new evidence rehabilitates the nut, often seen as an unhealthy snack food.

Suicide is linked to birth pain

BY OUR SCIENCE EDITOR

A PAINFUL birth increases the risk of suicide in adult life, a Swedish study has found.

Two Swedish professors compared the birth experiences of 242 adults who took their own lives by violent means with 403 siblings who did not. In the *British Medical Journal* they report that a common feature among the suicides was a difficult birth.

That included the use of forceps, the need for resuscitation and breech presentation at birth. The suicides had experienced twice as many interventions at birth as their siblings. They also found that the mothers of babies who subsequently killed themselves had longer labours and fewer painkillers.

Professors Berril Jacobson and Marc Bygdemann believe that a "traumatic birth" — a pattern of behaviour in which individuals unconsciously seek a similarly traumatic experience in suicide.

The hypothesis wins little support from Louis Appleby, Professor of Psychiatry at Manchester University, who says in the *BMJ* that violent suicides are linked with severe mental illnesses such as schizophrenia and manic depression. A difficult birth is also linked to the same mental disorders, probably as a result of an oxygen shortage at birth.

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Lady Hurd: could not eat, so fasted on recipe books

Judy Hurd tells how she fought leukaemia

JUDY HURD, the wife of the former Tory Foreign Secretary Lord Hurd of Westwell, has revealed how a diet of cook books and television chefs helped her fight leukaemia (Mark Ingfield writes). Because chemotherapy depletes the immune system, her diet was restricted and had to be overcooked to kill bacteria. "Food is full of bugs friendly to the healthy person, but not to those of us languishing in Ward 5E," she writes in this week's Spectator. "The restrictions brought on an insatiable interest in cookery. As many of my fellow patients seemed to lose interest in food, I stubbornly retained it through those four long months of chemotherapy. She also made a promise to a friend who rang from a Cornish quay to say she was collecting lobsters: "I vowed to be on that quay in summer 1999."

United we stand, divided we fail, Blair tells Scots

TONY BLAIR last night presented his vision of a Britain united through generations by common values and shared ideals that should not be sacrificed to the "narrow politics of identity" and separatism. In an emotional speech in Glasgow that marked the launch of Labour's campaign for the Scottish parliament elections in May next year, Mr Blair said the historic solidarity of the British people must triumph over separatism.

During the next six months Britain faced a stark choice between two futures, he said: one that built on the common experiences and sacrifices made by the people of the United Kingdom in which together they were able to defeat fascism, build a welfare state and fight against unemployment; or one in which the Scottish Nationalists were allowed to erect barriers that would make the English-born children of Scots foreigners in Scotland, barriers that would threaten jobs, taxes, schools and hospitals.

Addressing an audience of students and academics at Strathclyde University, he said: "Throughout the next six months there is one argument the Scottish National Party don't want to have. It is an argument about devolution versus separation. But politics is about more than identity, it is also about ideals. That is why

Ideals must not be sacrificed in election for identity, Labour warns. Shirley English reports

In the coming months we will try to put the case for the politics of social justice to overcome the narrow politics of identity."

He said in this week following Remembrance Sunday every one carried an awareness of history and of "the experiences and institutions that in Britain we share — for we are all united in remembering the great sacrifices that the nations of these islands have together made in times of great peril. We stood together to defeat fascism and we worked together to build a welfare state."

He said: "Throughout this century, in the time when working people earned their living by the skills of their hands and the strength of their back, throughout Britain they were united in their struggle against unemployment. Whether it was the Upper Clyde shipyard workers or the Jarrow marchers, all asserted

the dignity and decency of work. These common bonds and mutual interests endure in a different world today."

New Labour's vision was one of a country united by common purpose and derived from shared values, that make Scotland stronger with Britain and Britain stronger with Scotland."

Devolution, he said, had safeguarded the distinctiveness and democratic control of Scottish institutions. As a result the Nationalists could no longer argue that Scottish nationhood was under threat. Instead they had been forced to claim that the values of the Scots were so different from the rest of Britain that new barriers should be established.

Mr Blair said his own family history illustrated how integrated Britain was. Born in Scotland, he had lived most of his life in England. His mother was Irish, his father English but both were raised in Scotland. "We are bound together. Why set us apart?"

He said the Nationalists continued to argue that Scottishness was diminished by any connection with the rest of Britain. "While Labour is investing in the NHS, the nationalists would first invest in the apparatus of a national Government," he said.

Mary Ann Sieghart, page 22



Tony Blair speaking at Strathclyde University yesterday

Time to stop the complaints and step up reforms

Members of Parliament are for ever complaining about a democratic deficit in Europe. But now, they have a chance to do something about it. The Government yesterday produced a White Paper, *The Scrutiny of European Union Business*, that helps to answer these complaints by improving the way the Commons deals with the EU.

Many key decisions on trade, health and safety and the single market are taken in a complicated triangle of the Commission, ministers and the Strasbourg Parliament. This limits the scope for MPs to intervene. The challenge for national parliaments has been to have their say before proposals are firmed up.

The Commons already has an elaborate machinery for scrutinising new European proposals — matching the broader work of the Lords committees. Unfortunately, this scrutiny has become a

ghetto activity, attracting zealots on both sides but ignored by virtually everyone else. The process also has inherent flaws. These are addressed in the new package, brought forward by Margaret Beckett, Leader of the Commons, which broadly reflects the cross-party view set out in three reports by various committees of the House since mid-1996.

The big gap has been intergovernmental co-operation on foreign and security policy and justice and home affairs under the Maastricht treaty. This had not yet been brought fully within the scrutiny system, but will now.

The key point is the government undertaking to Parliament, known as the scrutiny reserve, not to agree to measures in the Council of Ministers before MPs have had an opportunity fully to consider proposals. This will be strengthened to include areas of intergovernmental co-operation as well as Commission Green Papers. Ministers have also promised to improve the flow of information about EU

business. The number of European Standing Committees is to be increased from two to three and their members are likely to be nominated for a whole Parliament rather than just one session. The committees will have a wider remit to consider EU developments.

These changes are desirable but will make little difference unless the Commons makes use of them. MPs are always in favour of reform in general, but seldom do much about it in practice. It is a question of attitude. For instance, the Treasury committee is doing a good job of holding the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England to account and has held some informative hearings on the world economy. Giles Radice, the chairman, took part in an important initiative to link the European Parliament's Monetary Affairs Committee with representatives of national finance and

Treasury committees in meetings twice a year to look at the work of the European Central Bank.

In other areas, the pace of reform is disappointingly slow. A sensible package to improve the way legislation is considered was approved more than a year ago, but only a limited amount has been implemented. Some draft Bills have been produced and there has been limited programming of the way that constitutional Bills are considered. Otherwise, little has changed in the way that Bills are examined and debated, in part because a new Government has been kept to press ahead with its heavy legislative programme. Mrs Beckett is well aware of this and hopes that more reforms will be implemented in the coming session. The Commons is reforming itself, but the pace will have to be stepped up if Westminster is not to be left behind by the far-reaching constitutional changes under way.

PETER RIDDELL

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

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Michael... scrap... Wilson 'fra... former min

Michael threatens to scrap £10m building

Welsh assembly may sit in Cardiff City Hall instead of grandiose new home, writes Valerie Elliott

ALUN MICHAEL, the new Welsh Secretary, may scrap plans for a £10 million building on the Cardiff seaford to house the Welsh assembly. The project has already been nicknamed "Crystal Balls".

Mr Michael is considering siting the assembly inside the existing Cardiff City Hall, where he himself was once a councillor. The move would be popular in Cardiff, where there was resentment that London architects, the Richard Rogers partnership, had been selected for the job. That decision, by a panel headed by Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, also brought charges of cronyism — Lord Rogers of Riverside is a Labour colleague of the former Prime Minister in the Upper House.

Mr Michael has spoken to Lord Callaghan — his predecessor as MP for Cardiff South and Penarth — to inform him of the review. He is also to contact the rest of the panel.

The news was disclosed yesterday as Mr Michael launched his campaign to become leader of the Labour Party in Wales, and hence Labour's candidate for the post of First Secretary. Last night it was clear that the Welsh Labour Party had failed to win a contest for the post, and Mr Michael himself was ready to fight a "vigorous" campaign against Rhodri Morgan, Labour MP for Cardiff West and his main challenger.

He hoped that any contest

could be conducted amicably — the two men are friends and entered the Commons together in 1987. Mr Michael made clear he would be happy to share a campaign platform with Mr Morgan — something his predecessor as Welsh Secretary, Ron Davies, refused to do when he contested the post with him. "I think it is important that party members hear all the views, just as happened during the leadership elections for Tony Blair when he shared a platform with John Prescott and Margaret Beckett," Mr Michael said.

During an interview with *The Times* yesterday Mr Michael's concerns about the building were clear. Plans were laid out on the coffee table, with papers with notes on costings and details of the contract. He had made no decision about the site and was "reviewing every option".

Mr Michael had just left the weekly Cabinet meeting and a private meeting with Mr Blair to discuss the party in Wales. Mr Michael is tackling a variety of tasks — but his priority is to show a steady hand at the Welsh Office. "In recent history there has been too much argument and diversion and I may well be seen as trying to

be a calming influence in Welsh politics," he observed.

But Mr Michael is naturally energetic and even when he speaks of "calm" one could understand why Mr Blair has said that "the most terrifying sight at Westminster is Alun Michael with a clipboard".

He has lost no time in stamping his mark on the Welsh Office — indeed he has been so busy reviewing the work of Mr Davies that he has not had time to unpack his crates from the Home Office, his previous posting. Nor has he had time "to sort things out with Mr Blair" about his future — how long for example he might stay on as Welsh Secretary if he becomes First Secretary.

Nor, indeed, had he spoken to Mr Davies — and "no", he had not yet discussed with him a future role at the Welsh assembly; the door is clearly open, however, to Mr Davies.

Mr Michael was anxious that the talk of the election for the Welsh Labour leadership had been a distraction from

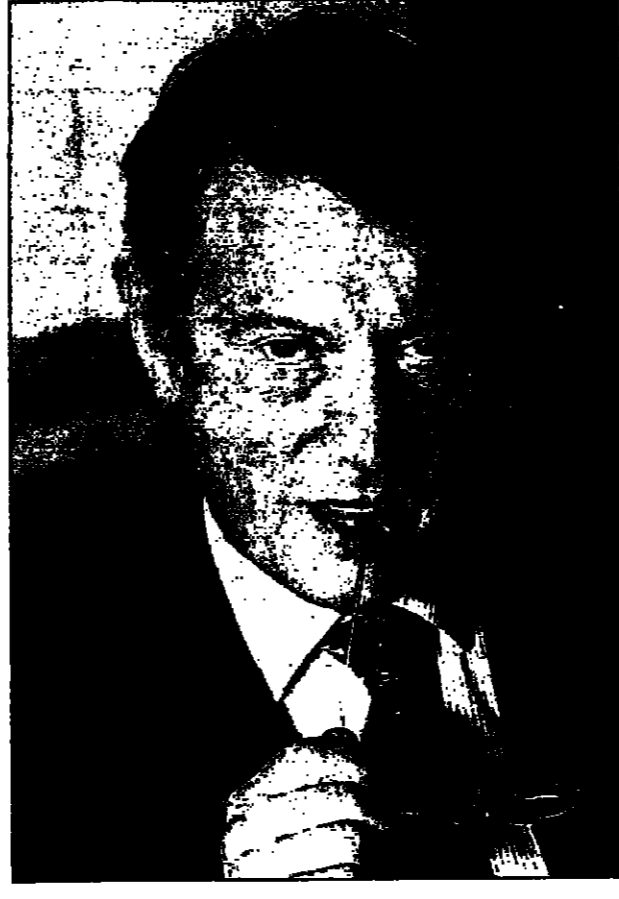
his concerns at the Welsh Office: the economy, health, education, and local government. He is reviewing plans to reorganise the health service and working with Stephen Byers, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, to save farmers from bankruptcy.

He is reviewing plans for the assembly itself, even for its opening. Talk of a "no frills" ceremony were misguided, he said. "I don't know where you got the idea there was not going to be much pomp. We should recognise this will be a momentous occasion."

But he wants the assembly itself to be less formal in its workings than Westminster, and is determined that there should be a voice for youth.

Mr Michael believes he can present himself to the Welsh Labour Party as a man with experience of government and a unity candidate with roots in North Wales who has lived in the South for many years.

He resents the suggestion that he was "parachuted" into Wales by Mr Blair. "This is my home, this is where we have brought up our children. Being Secretary of State for Wales has allowed me to return home."



Alun Michael, the new Welsh Secretary, may scrap plans for the £10m "Crystal Balls" Welsh assembly building

Downey says MPs went soft on Hamilton

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

SIR GORDON DOWNEY, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, yesterday criticised MPs for going "soft" on Neil Hamilton, the former Tory MP, over the cash-for-questions affair.

He also made clear he believed the public might expect much tougher punishment against MPs who breach parliamentary rules and even mooted a plan for MPs to commission an opinion poll about their public standing.

But in a parting shot to mark his retirement he said he was disappointed that MPs on the standards and privileges committee "underestimated their capacity to reach a judgment" when there was compelling evidence that Mr Hamilton had accepted cash for lobbying from Mohammed Al Fayed, the chairman of Harrod's.

He also said that when new bribery and corruption laws were introduced any MPs facing charges should be dealt with by the courts

and not by Parliament. He accepted that public censure alone was serious for MPs but suggested the range of punishments should be censure, apology, suspension and expulsion.

He also called for a new seven-year limit on investigations into past allegations, although this could be waived for serious misdemeanours such as bribery or misleading Parliament.

He said he believed the "corrupting influence" of financial links between MPs and lobbyists had been "broken" following the cash-for-questions inquiry.

But Sir Gordon also suggested that there may well have been other networks involving lobbyists and MP working on behalf of Lorrho and other organisations which never came to light.

Wilson 'framed former minister'

By Mark Inglefield, Political Reporter

THE spy writer Chapman Pincher has alleged that Harold Wilson ordered police to frame a former ministerial colleague on a kerb-crawling charge.

In 1976 Lord Wigg, who had been Paymaster General in the Wilson Cabinet in the 1960s, was arrested at Marble Arch, London. Mr Pincher claims that Lord Wigg told him the arrest was made on instructions from the Prime Minister, with whom he had fallen out. Mr Pincher said that no prostitutes were called in the trial, which was dropped.

Lord Wilson, who died two

years ago, may have had good reason to discredit Lord Wigg, who, in government, styled himself "Spymaster General", collecting salacious material on MPs and recording it in diaries, now held at the London School of Economics.

"He could find out about any minister and was able to indulge his prurient curiosity by probing the sexual peccadilloes of politicians," Mr Pincher writes in the *Spectator*. He also claims Lord Wigg had wanted to publish the story in his memoirs, but this was forbidden at the time by his lawyers.

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DNA test may solve mystery of missing boy

Hair could identify Ben Needham, writes Stewart Tendler

DNA tests were being set up yesterday to establish whether a child seen in Greece is Ben Needham, who vanished there seven years ago.

A hair from the child's head was brought back this summer by a British tourist. John Cookson gave it to the Needham family, but scientists have only now been able to make use of it because of developments in DNA testing in recent months.

Yesterday South Yorkshire Police delivered a hair taken from Christine Needham, Ben's grandmother, to forensic scientists at a laboratory in Wetherby, Yorkshire. Police say that the tests may take some time; they may not confirm whether the boy is Ben, but should make it easier to say if it is not.

Ben was 21 months old when he vanished in July 1991 while playing outside the farmhouse his grandparents were renovating on the island of Kos.

While his parents and brother were dark-haired, he said the boy was known as "The Blond One" and seemed to act differently.

He said he thought the child lived in a nearby taverna and his brother was 17. Mr Cookson added that he had seen the boy on other visits to the island before deciding to gather evidence.

Yesterday Ben's mother, Kerry, said she had seen the film and understood why Mr

Cookson was struck by the child's appearance. There were similarities, but the boy's mouth was different and his teeth were poor.

Ben's grandfather, Eddie Needham, said the family were trying to remain calm. He said: "There have been other sightings over the years, but it's no longer just a blond-haired boy on a beach. This time we've got something physical which will prove one way or another whether it's Ben." He added: "Looking at the video of this boy, there is certainly a family resemblance, especially about the way his hair grows."

Ms Needham, 26, of Foxhill, Sheffield, said: "The next heartache we face is what to do if it is Ben. He was only a baby when he disappeared, now he will be nine years old. Whoever has got him will have had him a lot longer than I had him. He won't recognise me or know anything about us."

"That is a harrowing decision that we may have to face: whether to leave him with his new family if he is happy and well cared for, or whether to bring him back with us."

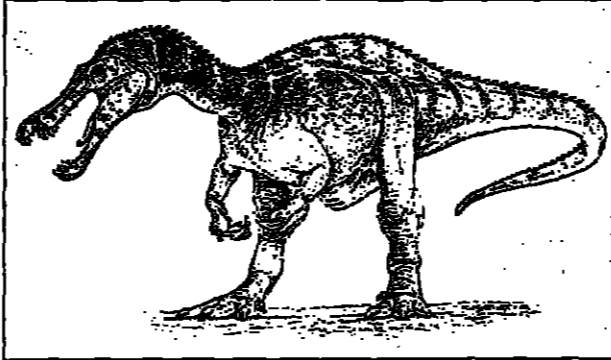
"But I need to know if he is still alive and I will never rest until he is found."



A video still of the blond boy who may be Ben



The University of Chicago team working on the site in the Sahara. In the foreground is a foot-long thumb claw from the skeleton



What Suchomimus tenerensis might have looked like

Desert skeleton forces rethink on crocodiles

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

A NEW crocodile-like dinosaur has been found in the deserts of Niger. Nearly 36ft long, the creature had long, narrow jaws filled with cone-shaped teeth, a fin-like tail along its back and large curved claws.

It belonged to a class of fish-eating dinosaurs called spinosaurids, and lived 100 million years ago. The new species, described in *Science* by a team led by Paul Sereno of the University of Chicago, has been called *Suchomimus tenerensis* (from the Greek for crocodile, *souchos*, and the Teneere desert).

Suchomimus is a close relation

of the most complete dinosaur fossils found in Britain, and now in the Natural History Museum. Its close similarity poses a puzzle for the evolution of the spinosaurids.

Before *Suchomimus* was found, the spinosaurids had probably evolved independently in the northern and southern hemispheres, because the two found in the south were so different from *Baryonyx*, found in a Surrey claypit.

This simple picture will now have to be rethought. The odds are, says Dr Sereno, that spinosaurids first appeared in

the north and then colonised the south across a land bridge that still linked the two halves of the super-continent Pangaea as it began to break up.

Suchomimus probably fed on meat as well as fish. The shape of its teeth imply they were better at piercing and grasping than slicing. Other fish-eating dinosaurs have serrated, blade-like teeth.

Spinosaurs have an unusual history, having been, as Thomas Holtz of the University of Maryland puts it, "twice lost" — first when they became extinct, and later, when the only known specimen was lost in an air raid on Munich.

Rare orchids in danger as gardeners are locked out

By Audrey Magee, Ireland Correspondent

A RARE collection of tiny tropical orchids is at risk of dying from neglect as gardeners at Ireland's botanic gardens have been locked out of work.

The 16 gardeners were suspended without pay four weeks ago, leaving a small group of managers and assistants to care for 20,000 plant species, including what is believed to be Europe's only collection of four delicate orchids discovered in the jungle in Belize.

Brendan Sayers, the orchid gardener, said: "I am the per-

son who found them, cared for them, potted them and I know they are in danger. Nobody else knows how much water to give or when to dry them out. They are probably dead and it is very, very distressing."

Mr Sayers uncovered four orchids previously unknown to Belize — *Platytelea minimiflora*, a 2cm translucent orchid with an orange lip; *Platytelea stenostachya var lankesteri*, a 3cm translucent plant with a maroon lip; *Pleurothallis peperomioides*, a 2cm orchid with red flowers opening like a bird's beak, and *Campylolobos peopigii*, a unusual

root orchid that produces white flowers.

The dispute is over extra money for training student gardeners. The workers were suspended before they planted the garden's 250,000 beds for winter or the daffodils and tulips for next year's spring beds.

Donal Synnott, director of the gardens, insisted that the orchids and other plants were "in good hands and in perfect health". He said: "It's winter time so there is not a lot to do and the curator is perfectly well able to look after the orchids."

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British bridges to restore links in Honduras

A Reading company is stepping up production to meet demand in the hurricane zone, David Adams writes

IN THE huge reconstruction effort under way in Honduras, it may be a pioneering British bridge-building company that provides a key component to help get the country back to work.

Hundreds of miles of roads and 72 bridges were washed away by torrents of mud and water in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch, leaving large parts of the country, including the capital, isolated. Road communications have been partially restored where receding waters have allowed rivers to be forded by heavy vehicles and four-wheel drive vans.

But Honduras has no immediate solution to its bridge problem and is anxiously seeking international help.

"They have asked everybody for Bailey bridges," said a British official, referring to the prefabricated steel structures which were patented in Britain before the Second World War. "We are trying to support that request. We think this can be one of the best ways to channel the aid money coming into Honduras."

A team from Mabey & Johnson, the Reading-based manufacturers of Bailey bridges, has met Honduran officials and representatives from the World Bank and the British Embassy, in the hope of reaching a deal to supply its "rapid reaction bridge system".

The company has already instructed its factory in Clewston to increase production in anticipation of large orders. "This country needs a minimum of \$125 million (£78 million) in bridges," said Jonathan Danos, sales director for Latin America. "We believe we have the answer."

The Honduran Government estimates that it needs more than three miles of temporary bridge-building materials in order to restore road communications between its main towns. It has no time to even consider the long-term bridge projects.

Bailey bridges, which were widely used in Bosnia to help a war-damaged infrastructure, are suited to an emergency. Invented by Sir Donald Bailey in the late 1930s, they were designed to meet British military

specifications, in that they could be erected quickly, in the dark, by hand and under gunfire.

Made from galvanised steel, they consist of panels measuring 10ft by 7½ft that slot easily together. They have the added advantage of being easily assembled by military construction brigades that are familiar with the design. Honduras is no stranger itself to Bailey bridges, which were used in 1974 after Hurricane Fifi, the country's last big storm.

Clinging for life: Even as international relief efforts were under way across Central America, several hundred people were still clinging to trees yesterday in flooded areas of Honduras, awaiting rescue.

Some 1,200 people along the remote Mosquito Coast of Honduras were still cut off by floods. Anibal Delgado, of the National Agrarian Institute, said. Among the people awaiting rescue, several hundred were perched on treetops to save themselves from the floods, he said, adding that rain and fog had stopped helicopters from reaching the area. (AFP)



A guard watches over a bus swept away by floods on the Choluteca river in Honduras

WORLD IN BRIEF

Monks let women see Goya frescoes

Madrid: For the first time in more than two centuries women have been allowed to view a series of seven frescoes painted by Goya in the closed Carthusian monastery of Aula Dei in Zaragoza, eastern Spain (Giles Tremlett writes). There were feminist demonstrations outside the monastery last year after the monks refused to lift the rule forbidding women from entering their spiritual sanctuary. A tunnel has now been constructed so that women can enter the frescoes room without walking through the monastery. Queen Sofia led a group of 500 women to see the works restored with public money.

Nuclear plant fears

Paris: Greenpeace, the environmental watchdog, claimed that the French nuclear reprocessing plant at La Hague was emitting "worrisome" levels of radioactive carbon. The group said an analysis of grass and leaves surrounding the plant showed concentrations of carbon-14 that are two to seven times greater than normal levels, adding: "It is clear that the entire area surrounding La Hague, especially the part downwind from the plant, is seriously contaminated." (AP)

OJ in TV custody plea

Los Angeles: Facing a custody battle for his children, O.J. Simpson telephoned a television news station and pleaded his case for an hour on the airwaves (Giles Whinnell writes). He insisted in the impromptu interview that he was a good father who did not kill his wife and deserved to be left alone with his children. When asked why his blood was found by the murdered bodies of his mother and a friend he hung up.

Cod and ships

Oslo: The Norwegian Navy's submarine corps has run into an unexpected problem - lovesick fish. Teeming schools of passionate cod, in the midst of a frenzied mating season, make so much noise that the submarines' sonar cannot hear anything else, making it almost impossible to navigate in the waters of the Norwegian Sea, according to a defence study. The cod grunt repeatedly to attract potential mates. (AP)

Prescott's global warning

Buenos Aires: The death and destruction of Hurricane Mitch, the forest fires in Indonesia and the floods in China are warnings "the world ignores at its peril", John Prescott said yesterday (Nick Nuttall writes).

As global climate talks in Argentina move into the final phase, the Deputy Prime Minister told ministers and officials from 169 countries that "sympathy alone will not prevent such tragedies in the future".

In a veiled attack on some sections of United States industry, lobbying hard to stall any deal here, he said: "Let us hear no more doubts about the science of climate change, especially when those doubts are an excuse for inaction."

In an historic deal a year ago in Japan, industrialised nations agreed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In Buenos Aires, they are trying to agree how these cuts are to be made.

Briton is kidnapped in Nigeria

A BRITON was among seven people kidnapped by militant Nigerian youths from an oil rig in the delta region, as a shutdown in the flow of oil from foreign-owned units entered its 38th day (Michael Binyon writes).

The seven foreign nationals also included a Croatian, an Italian, a South African and three Americans. They were kidnapped on Wednesday, together with a Nigerian, while working for Texaco and other Western oil companies operating on a Texaco-owned offshore rig in Bayelsa state.

The Briton's name has not been released. The Foreign Office said it was following up the reports and had offered consular help. But in many kidnapping cases, foreign oil companies free the hostages by swift payment of a ransom.

There has been an upsurge of violence in the delta as youths have gone on the rampage, demanding a clean-up of the environment and more spending and social amenities in the oil-producing region.

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Brittan in plea to stop stalling on euro

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THE British Government...

'Jackal' demands a death for each day in jail

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS
AFTER more than a week on hunger strike, the convicted terrorist Carlos the Jackal...



Carlos would like to be Saddam's foot soldier

revolutionaries." Carlos, 49, who also waxed lyrical about "France, eternal France" in his will...

Buddy in dog house after bite

Washington: Buddy, the First Pooch, is in the dog house after sinking his teeth into the hand of President Clinton's helicopter pilot...



Buddy with President Clinton and his daughter, Chelsea. He has not been disciplined

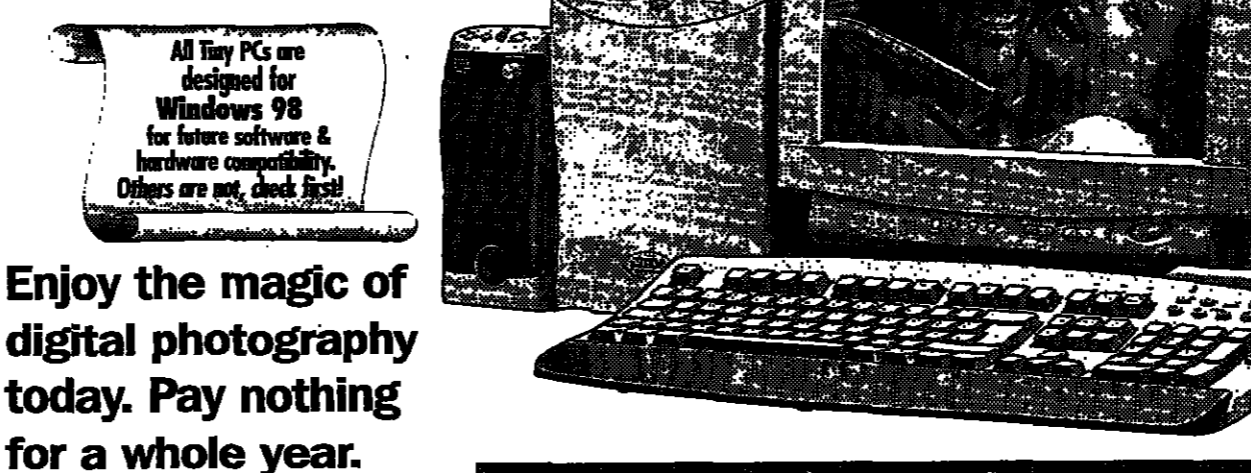
Lewinsky hiding from public gaze

AS A nation waits to hear her voice, rare sightings of Monica Lewinsky have revealed a life spent trying to hide from the world...

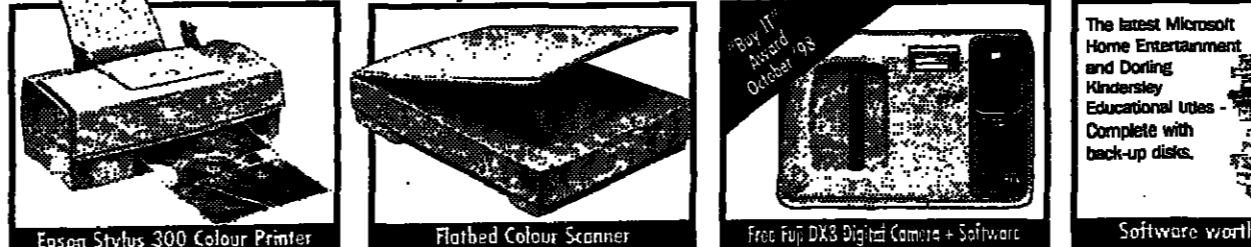


Lewinsky: in New York with her mother

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UN spies losing battle with Baghdad



Weapons inspectors uncovered much of Saddam's arsenal but now have little power, writes James Bone in New York

THE United Nations Special Commission was once a swashbuckling band of former soldiers, spies and scientists whose cloak-and-dagger tactics unearthed the most fearsome secrets of Iraq's arsenal of mass destruction. Those heady days, however, are long gone.

For months, and some would say years, this unprecedented UN spy agency has been eaten away by a what may be a terminal disease. With all its staff now evacuated

from Baghdad, a bombing raid on Iraq could spell its imminent demise. The only consolation for supporters such as Britain and the United States is that nobody imagined the agency would last so long.

Established by the UN's ceasefire resolution at the end of the Gulf War in 1991, Unscorm was meant to complete its main business in about three months. The resolution required Iraq to declare all its nuclear, biological and chemical weapons,

and the missiles to deliver them, in just 15 days. Baghdad was meant to surrender them within 90 days.

Although multinational in character, the key posts went to the coalition leaders, the British and Americans, or to personnel from other countries that they trusted. The first Unscorm chairman was Swedish and the current head is Australian, but an American always served as the second-in-command.

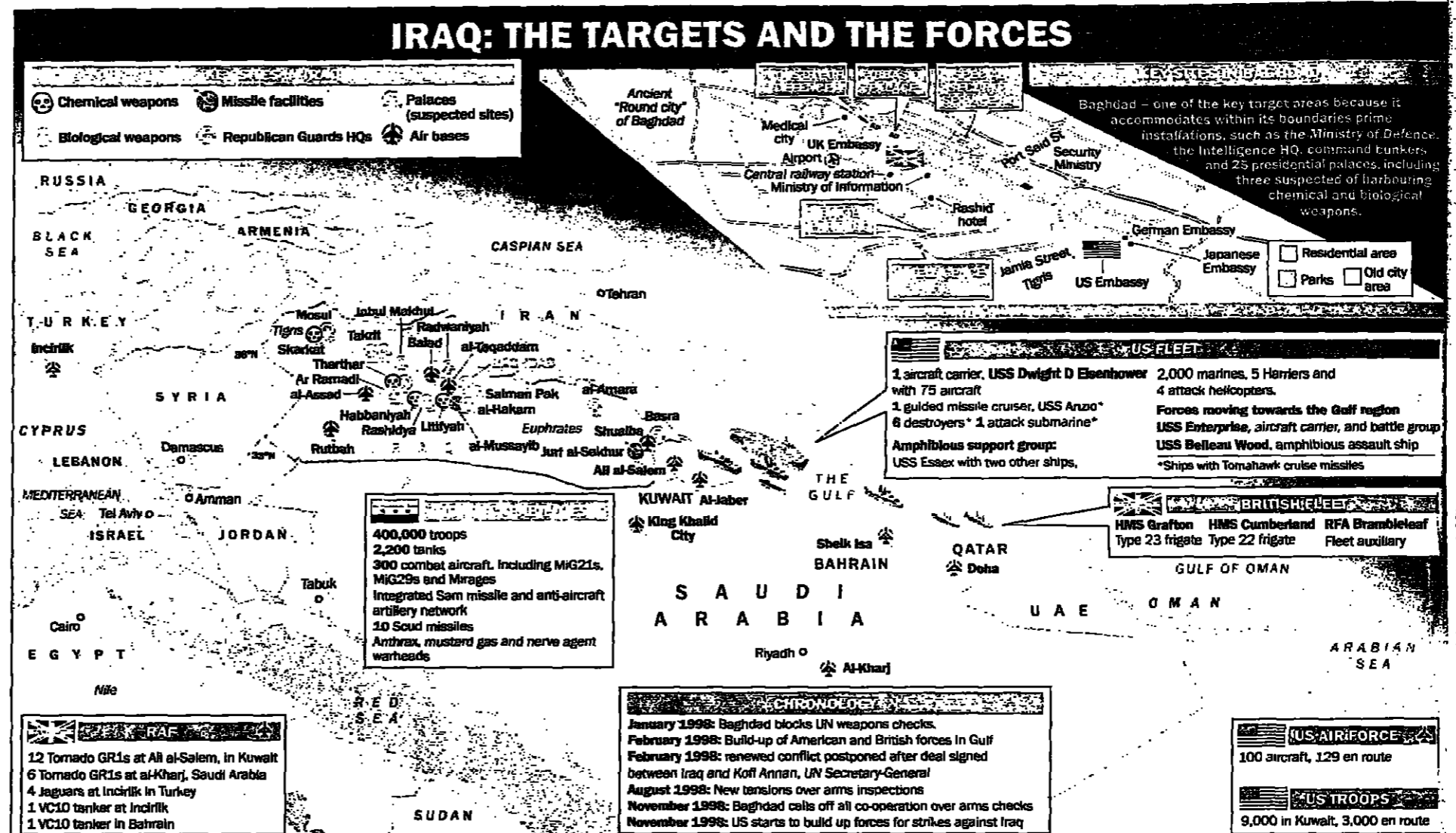
US abandons strategy of surgical strikes

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

TARGETS

THE Pentagon has drawn up a list of 250 targets in Iraq for military strikes, including facilities considered to be crucial to President Saddam Hussein's survival as leader.

The comprehensive content of the target plan underlines the switch in strategy that Washington has now adopted. President Clinton and his security advisers are clearly convinced that Tomahawk cruise missile raids are not enough to bring the Iraqi leader to heel.



and pharmaceuticals. Others were breweries, distilleries and dairies with equipment that could be used for making biological weapons. The list of 250 targets is thought to include 45 presidential palaces where it is suspected Saddam is concealing biological and chemical weapons. His chemical and biological weapons programme — developing and storing anthrax, VX nerve gas, mustard gas, botulinum toxin, sarin nerve agent, "Agent 15" nerve gas and cyanide — is still active. British intelligence assessments are that Saddam has "weaponised" some of these chemical and biological warfare agents and has concealed them in small quantities at secret sites around Iraq. The Iraqi leader also has a small number of Scud missiles hidden in secret locations which could be made operational in a matter of days.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY NOVEMBER 13 1998

Aziz fires first soundbite on satellite

MURTIUS & SEYCH

Smak



British holidaymakers cut short their vacation in the Red Sea resort of Eilat yesterday

Tourists head home as Israelis fear gas attack

Travel firms respond to Foreign Office fears of Iraqi retaliation, reports Christopher Walker in Jerusalem

HUNDREDS of British holidaymakers were yesterday in the vanguard of what could become a mass tourist evacuation from Israel after the Foreign Office issued a warning against non-essential travel in case of Iraqi retaliation for attacks on Baghdad.

At the same time, the Israeli Army's Home Front Command opened 66 centres to distribute new and replacement gas masks and anti-chemical warfare kits to Israeli citizens. These will be open round the clock as long as the stand-off with Iraq continues.

Aziz fires first in soundbite war on satellite TV

BY BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON AND MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

IRAQ yesterday defiantly lambasted the United States for its military build-up, provoking an immediate hard-line retort from Washington that there was no room for negotiation, and that an attack would inflict "significant" damage.

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Tariq Aziz, Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister, denounces the Western military threat in Baghdad yesterday

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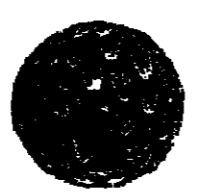
Romantic ball of wine-red roses. Made from fabric, ensuring long-lasting shape and colour, although could be mistaken for delicate dried flowers. Bhs (0171-262 3288) 9/10



GLITTER STAR, £3.75
Large glitter framework star could be hung on the tree or rest on top. Light enough not to drag down branches. Stunning. Inventory (0171-937 2626) 8/10



METAL STAR, £1.50
Extremely lightweight. Made from two thin sheets of metal with cut-out stars and squiggles. Good value. Debenhams (0171-408 4444) 7/10



FEATHER BALL, £5.50
Tiny soft pheasant feathers curve around this ball. Unusual, but fits in well on a traditional tree. Graham & Green (0171-727 4594) 9/10



SEQUIN STAR, £15.95
Exquisite quilted star covered in turquoise sequins, pearls and gold braid. Part of a wonderful range of Moroccan-inspired decorations. Liberty (0171-734 1234) 10/10

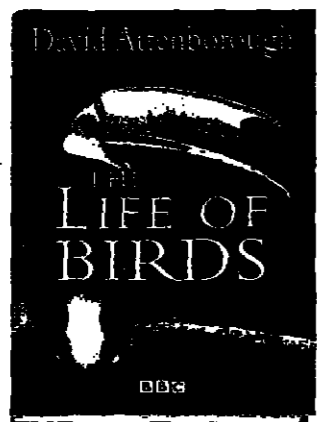
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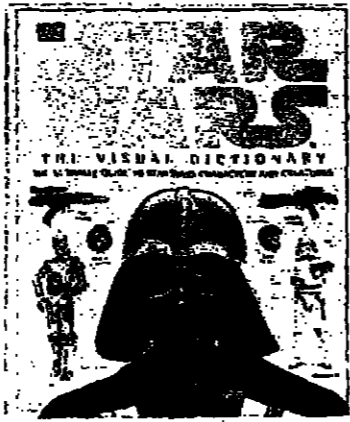
"This year my forward planning will be formidable enough to make Martha Stewart stretch her eyes in admiration"

THE TIMES FRIDAY
MAN ON TOP
JOE JOSEPH
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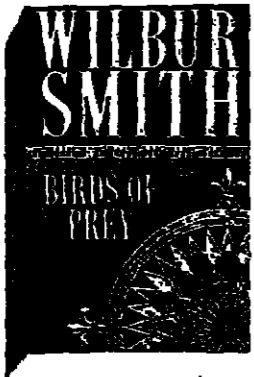
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Christmas comes but once a year and, when it comes, it invariably finds me in a state of hopeless disorder. I don't know how it happens — one minute the interminable Sundays in Trinity are trundling past and the next it is the middle of December, there are ten shopping days until Christmas and I am in a state of simmering panic in which I remain until January 6.

This time, I have sworn to myself that things will be different. Instead of complaining about the wave of commercial ho-ho-ery that begins creeping across the country as soon as the clocks go back — already there are Christmas trees lashed to the façades in Regent Street and outbreaks of seasonal lingerie in the chain stores — I am going to join it. This year, when the moment comes to open the first window of the Advent calendar (which I shall, naturally, have hand-painted myself and mounted in an artistic frame of gold-sprayed fir cones and assorted dried fruit), my forward planning will be formidable enough to make Martha Stewart herself stretch her eyes in admiration.

I shall begin with the Christmas decorations. We are great ones in our family for those special little Christmas traditions. A high point of the celebrations when we were small was the thrilling moment when, standing well back, my sister and I would wait for the cheerful pop and sizzle of ancient wiring as father threw the Bakelite switch on the fairy-lights. And then there were the ornaments. Distressed, I suppose you would call them now — battered angels with tarnished wings, glass birds with needle-sharp spun-glass tails, fragments of which would embed themselves in our little fingers...

Naturally, when my son was born, I did my best to reproduce these unforgettable, childish Christmases. We have an imposing collection of rickety wooden Santas of Eastern European origin, a set of lights whose replacement bulbs I have put in a place so

safe that I cannot recall it, a flock of robins in various stages of mange, and a fairy whose ribald state of dishevelment suggests that she has been at the sloe gin. I am fond of my Hogarthian collection of festive accessories. They have a seedy and mildly villainous presence which acts as a bracing antidote to the general Christmas *Schmerzerei*. Still, I can see that there is some potential for updating, so we set off for the Fulham Road to see what the well-dressed Christmas tree is wearing this year.

At the Conran Shop my son took a fancy to a glass locomotive and carriages, £6. I had been thinking more of Snow Queen icicles than the 6.25 to Beckenham, but was deflected from my plans by some papier-mâché animals — little blue

Byzantium range is more dull glow than brash sparkle. Beaded fruit (£7.50 for a set of apple, pear and pomegranate) and gold or silver beaded tassels, £3.95, are especially handsome.

For quirky, shoe-string elegance, Bhs is unexpectedly brilliant, with 9ft garlands of little gold musical instruments or iridescent icicles, £2, gold twig "cages" with a gold ball inside, £2.50, and plump crystal cherubs playing musical instruments, £2. You get a very nice class of cherub at the National Gallery, where a stencil of a Guido Reni *pusto* or a Simon Marmion angel is £10, and an Advent calendar by Posy Simmonds with a cloud of naked *pazzi* flitting about the gallery is £5.

But if the very thought of Christmas makes you want to go and lie down in a darkened room, the answer is probably a visit to Selfridge's Christmas Hall, where, if you want, they will do the whole tree for you. It was strangely quiet when I was there last week. A huge room is filled with about a dozen trees, decorated in every imaginable style, from cheerfully childish, with Santa baubles, £1.49, a glitter star, £4.99, and a stripy tin cat, £2.49, through artless rustic, with feather robins, 79p, holly-berry baubles, £2.49, and spotty glass toadstools, £2.49, to frightfully tasteful, with garlands of gold pears, £8.99, and Grinling Gibbons gift bows, £2.49, and completely over the top — a battery-powered mirror disco ball is £59.99.

CUTTING EDGE
JANE SHILLING

elephants or red birds with gold spots at £1.95 each. Glitter-wire birds are £2.75, glass fruit, £1.25, and cheerful Mexican tin vegetables, £1.75. Alexander and I were very taken with crackers made out of maps — the London A-Z, the Paris Périphérique, and so on — with compasses stuck to them, £22.95.

Farther up the Fulham Road, Jerry's Home Store has drums of glass baubles decorated with the Union Flag, £14.95. Traditional silver metal candle clips are £5.95 for 20, candles are £3.95 for 20 and packets of "snow" are £2.50.

Glitter-haters should head for the Shaker Shop, where, among a slightly twee collection, are some real finds, particularly the hand-carved white doves, £9.95, and angels, £19.95, the silver birch-bark decorations in heart, tree and star shapes, £14.95 for five, and a set of four miniature knitted Christmas stockings, £25.95. The General Trading Company's Christmas in

I you are really idle you can buy a ready-decorated tree from about £700, but I spent a happy half hour pottering among the Tiffany-style malachite baubles, the bunches of pink crystal grapes and the real feather pheasants. At the end of it all an engagingly laid-back sales assistant somehow charmed me into wrapping up my own sleigh bells while he got on with reminiscing about his childhood Christmases in Australia. It was the jolliest bit of Christmas shopping I think I've ever done.

Objects of desire

For children who wish their homework would fly away, the National Gallery's winged rucksack will add some fun to the journey to school. Based on the Wilton Diptych (1395-99), it is suitable for children aged three and over. £20 at The National Gallery Shop (0171-747 2870).



Keep clothes sweet-smelling with Bhs's tiny satin cushions. Tuck them between clothes and the scent, if not the embroidered gold words of Joy, Wish, Calm and Dream, will permeate your wardrobe. £7 for set of four (0171-262 3288), DB

مكتبة من الأصيل



MAN ON TOP
JOE JOSEPH

Vile bodies at my local swimming pool

Still keeping up with the daily swim? Yes, that daily swim, the one you promised to take when you realised, as you were floating in the Mediterranean three months ago, (a) what a pleasant way swimming is to exercise; and (b) how, now that your waist extends far enough to shield your shoes from all but the most horizontal rainfall, it might be smart to get trim before you become technically fat (defined as "two stones heavier than whatever you weigh now").

This is why so many of us return from our holiday and immediately join a local gym with a pool. A few of us are so besotted by our new hobby that we even get around to swimming in the pool before our £900 annual membership expires. But the reason that most of us don't is that it dawns on us that spending several hours doing

breaststroke is not a natural pursuit for human beings. Swinburne took to the ocean because "the lash and sting" of the sea's surf triggered erotic memories of the floggings he enjoyed at Eton. But other schoolboys have always needed persuading of the charms of swimming. That's why your swimming teacher always had to bribe you by giving you stripes and badges for your mother to sew on to your trunks. You could serve tennis aces in a row on the tennis court and they still never gave you a green ribbon to sew on to your shorts. But swim six yards across a pool and the teacher would be straight on the phone organising a congratulatory telegram from Buckingham Palace.

By the time your trunks had more coloured stripes than a Bridget Riley painting, you could swim as far as you liked, for as long as you cared to. Only there's nowhere to go. You get all the way to one end of the pool and you feel a little foolish, so you just turn around and come back again. You never know when you're finished. It's only when you're eyeing your fellow swimmers on your way back to the changing rooms that you realise what swimming could do for your physique.

You suddenly notice that most people at public pools look so misshapen that aliens would assume that swimming baths were scientific research facilities where biologists experimented with human body forms, many of them based directly on Vanessa Feltz. (Pamela Anderson looked like that in *Baywatch* only because she never actually stepped into the water.) When they tell you that swimming gives you the body of an 18-year-old, what they don't say is that very often it's the body of an 18-year-old Ford Transit.

You also notice that they are all wearing swimming costumes that last fitted them properly in 1982, possibly because in their religion men and women are allowed to buy only one swimming costume once they reach adulthood. These costumes are covered in patterns so searingly lurid that eye-surgeons could use them to perform laser-surgery. ("Stare at these trunks, but for no more than one quarter of a second. Do you feel a burning sensation on your retina? Good, that should sort out the short-sightedness in your left eye.")

These are people who have tried and failed with known methods of shedding weight and are now dabbling on the fringes of known science: they've tried explaining to their thighs that humans no longer need to store 42lb of fat about their

bodies for emergencies, because the corner store is open all the time and all the local restaurants deliver. But their thighs didn't listen. So now they are shamelessly trying to squeeze their fat cells away; they think that by showing them swimwear that looks as if it's been exposed to fierce radioactivity, their fat cells might decamp to somewhere more hospitable, such as one of Marlon Brando's chins.

And even if swimming does tighten your belly muscles, it does even spookier things to your brain. Byron liked to swim every day in a stagnant duckpond near Newstead Abbey. But pretty soon he was on to the hard stuff. After leaving a party in Venice, he dived, fully clothed, into the Grand Canal and swam home, holding a torch to warn off passing gondoliers. And on swimming the Hellespont on May 3, 1810, Byron wrote: "I plume myself on this achievement more than I could possibly do any kind of glory, political, poetical, or rhetorical."

This didn't make much sense to anyone, of course, until Freud came along and told us that swimming basically disguises a human yearning to revisit the amniotic waters of the womb. That might not have put Byron off swimming, but it would have made him think twice about messing with Viennese women, just in case they really do have wombs full of seaweed, with single underfoot.

It probably also explains why, when most people hear the call of the sea, the sea says: "Stay on dry land — especially if you're Marlon Brando — because visibility can be poor and you never know when there'll be a Japanese whaler in the area."

There's no such thing as class

Society jeweller Julia Ogilvy married into the Royal Family. Interview by Moira Petty

Julia Ogilvy sashays through the glittering Edinburgh emporium. She may answer to the lowly title, Mrs, but she is queen of all she surveys within the roocon interior of Hamilton & Inches, Scotland's grandest jeweller. (A 3.10 carat diamond set in platinum ring, £42,900. Pearl and diamond collar, £18,841.)

Mrs Ogilvy is noted for two achievements. First, in July 1988 she married James, son of the Queen's cousin, Princess Alexandra; but mention this and she bristles. Second, already installed as managing director of Hamilton & Inches, she has recently led a management buy-out of former owners Asprey. Mention this and she glows.

Although everything around here has a price tag (enamelled cufflinks, £120. Edwardian gold, amethyst and pearl pendant, £2,150), she discreetly refuses to say how much money changed hands. The management team of four put in some equity and there was finance from The Bank of Scotland. "It was terrifying. But we agreed with Asprey we wouldn't give you any figures," she says primly.

Mrs Ogilvy, 33, is a vision in her grey Tomasz Starzewski suit and LK Bennett sling-backs, a perfect foil for the jewels with which she drips. They cascade from ears, wrist and neck. Her three-string pearl necklace was a 21st birthday present: "Pearls had that funny Sloane Ranger association but now they're seen as chic."

Today she is also twinkling in pearl and diamond earrings and her sapphire and diamond cluster engagement ring ("Diamonds are so simple"); Celtic-looking brooch and ring and several other rings besides, and a charm bracelet to which her husband adds a gold nugget on each

wedding anniversary. Plus she is wearing a Rolex; at home are the Patek Philippe and Tag Heuer models. "I'm a bit of a watch person," she confesses.

Mrs Ogilvy is used to piling on the jewellery. "I buy quite a lot and I borrow things. I get very excited by new designers. If I'm wearing a ballgown I'll borrow one of our £26,000 pearl and diamond chokers. We have lots of parties in the shop and people often want to try on what I am wearing. I end up with no jewellery by the end of the evening."

She had a "wonderful childhood" with her two sisters in Saffron Walden, Essex. "There was no family money. My father worked hard in the City and made money. I was on the front of *Tatler* once as the ultimate Essex girl."

Had she had to overcome any class differences when she married James? He is, after all, within a few dozen places of the throne. "Class? CLASS?" she says, with an incredulous peal of laughter. "Life isn't about class any more. It's not about who you are, but what you put into your life."

"I'm not saying anything about Essex but there's more than one type of Essex, you know. My parents live in a beautiful thatched house in a lovely village."

She is very keen on the concept of luxury. In fact she came up with a great idea for her husband James, who runs his own publishing business from their Fife farmhouse. To his bi-monthly title, *Ogilvy's Britain and Ireland: The Insider Guide to the Sophisticated Traveller* (typical features: Fabulous Golf and The British Tea), he has added *Luxury Briefing: Your Indispensable Guide to the Luxury Industry*. A top tip from a recent issue: "Pierre Cardin may be a licence-

'Life isn't about class any more. It's what you put into it'



Julia Ogilvy: "I buy all my underwear from M&S but my mother hates it when I say that. I bought a linen suit there this summer and everyone thought it was Ralph Lauren"

success but it's no longer an achiever's choice."

"My husband's happy to give me the credit for coming up with the idea for *Luxury Briefing*," she says. "It's hard to get to all the PR parties, hear all the gossip, so we decided to start this for all the people who work in that business. It is, after all, the same customer who stays at five-star hotels, flies Concorde and buys expensive jewellery."

Mrs Ogilvy sighs and says: "It's so easy to get cut off from the luxury-goods world. We've still got lots of friends who work at places like Louis Vuitton so we like to come down to London and get to some of the parties. The Carrier polo is always a wonderful event."

Where, in the classless world she claims to inhabit, does she stay when in London? "With my parents-in-law. At St James's Palace. I feel quite at home there. It's like staying with any in-laws, although they're often at their other place in Richmond." James, 34, and Julia have two children, Flora, three, and Alexander, one. They met at St Andrew's University. "We were just friends, then we fell in love. At university his connection with the Royal Family hardly ever came out."

"I'm glad I haven't got a title. In a career it would just be a hassle. Some people say they're only good for getting tables in restaurants. We got engaged in the March and married in the July, ten years ago. We thought we'd get on with it." The Queen and other members of the Royal Family attended the wedding. "Every girl's wedding day is both terrifying and wonderful. I wasn't daunted. They're just a wonderful, friendly family."

"James and I had very structured childhoods, with a similar moral upbringing. I was probably never going to be the school prefect, but nothing was ever bad enough to make me rebel. And James has never done anything wild in his life."

"He has a very close relationship with his parents. His mother was incredibly hard-working and attended lots of official functions, but tailored it so that she could be around

for the children. I'm quite an organised person and believe that having a set routine makes children secure. I'm definitely old-fashioned in that respect."

There are often guests staying at their five-bedroom Georgian house with one and a half acres of land. "Visitors mustn't have high expectations," she says. "I put the children to bed, go into the kitchen and say 'it'll be spaghetti again'. Our dining room comes off the kitchen and it's also a playroom. Everywhere's painted white."

She buys a season's worth of clothes from designers Starzewski and Amanda Wakeley at a time. "I buy all my underwear from M&S but my mother hates it when I say that. I bought a linen suit there this summer and everyone thought it was Ralph Lauren. We only started wearing trouser suits at work recently. We thought the customers wouldn't like it."

She began her career in public relations for Garrard. "It was an easy way in." When, in 1992, Asprey bought Hamilton & Inches, she thought the job they were offering her was of marketing, not managing, director. "No one's ever given me the impression that they thought I couldn't do the job."

She thought the business needed "revitalising". Engagement rings would previously have started at £1,000. Now we've got some for £500. There's a complete mix of customers, aristocratic families who've kept their jewels in our vaults for a hundred years and people who've just made a lot of money. And I didn't say nouveau."

She suspected that Asprey was planning to sell its only Scottish shop earlier this year and approached them then. "It made me jumpy to think how we could have been sold off."

She is happy with life: "I have got two wonderful children, a job I love and a stake in the business." She even manages to look surprised when her husband presents her with a bauble from the shop.

"He has his favourite salesman here that he goes to. And of course I make sure he gets a nice discount."

'James has never done anything wild in his life'

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE RIGHT STUFF, BUT THE WRONG SEX

In the early 1960s when the Americans went boldly into space, they failed to cross the final frontier: accepting that women could be astronauts

The Sunday Times Magazine uncovers Nasa's sexist secret

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Don't miss the chance to get 20% off your Christmas shopping at Habitat. This Sunday there is a free 16-page Habitat supplement and the first taken for you to collect.

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS



COUNTDOWN OVER IRAQ

A new strategy aimed at the nerve-centre of Saddam's power

The decks have been cleared for military action against Iraq. The speed of events strongly contrasts with the diplomatic manoeuvrings that, for seven years, have accompanied previous attempts to force Saddam Hussein back into compliance with the UN's 1991 ceasefire resolutions.

Service, the nerve-centre of his regime. This unit, headed by a secret committee controlled by Qusay, his second son, runs Iraq's illicit military procurement, the 60-odd Iraqi biological installations and its secret intelligence. It is this network that has hidden from UNSCOM Iraq's stocks of banned missiles, munitions, chemicals, nerve gases and biological material.

Philip Howard
Lost and floundering in the English language
The menu for room service at the Laleh International Hotel, Tehran...

Government help to save the family

From the Archbishop of Glasgow
Sir, Much has been written in recent days about the Government's Green Paper Supporting Families (details November 5; letters, November 7).

Politicians and their private lives

From Mrs Christine Holt
Sir, I feel angry that words like "rally to support gay ministers" (headline, November 9; see also letters, November 10) are being used in the wake of Nick Brown's recent "outing".

Entente cordiale goes off the rails

From Major Peter Hampson, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment (ret'd)
Sir, The suggestion that Waterloo station should be renamed (report and leading article, November 6; letters, November 7) confirms much of what I have long suspected about the French, their struggle with the reality of pre-20th-century history and frankly their continued inability to lose with grace.

PACTS BRITANNICA

Less constructive opposition than constructive engagement

One of Tony Blair's most successful political ploys has been to turn opponents into allies. By picking off people who sit just to the right of Labour, he broadened his appeal and legitimised his party as a respectable holder of power.

Dems has other merits too for Mr Blair. It is not only the quarterly committee meetings that will consider subjects such as welfare reform, Europe and modernising Parliament. Between those meetings, Lib Dem spokesmen will be consulted by ministers about policy announcements.

GOLD STARS

Reward good schools with cash as well as praise

The State's provision of education has always suffered from a deep flaw: neither schools nor teachers are rewarded for success. Yesterday, it emerged that ministers are considering radical ideas to remedy this.

performance-related element into teachers' pay have so far been limited. Head teachers' top pay has been raised to £70,000, while experienced teachers can earn up to £40,000 if they remain in their classrooms and resist the temptations of managerial positions.

BBC accountability

From the Director of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association
Sir, It is certainly true that the BBC has done a great deal in recent years to improve its accountability, and rightly so. But there is still much about the Corporation that remains secret even though decisions it makes have real consequences for the viewing public.

Millennium bug

From the Chief Executive of the Association for Payment Clearing Services
Sir, I must take issue with Mark Henderson's contention (report, November 6) that "bank accounts could be wiped out" by the millennium bug.

The military option

From Mrs Ruth Baker
Sir, On one side of your front page today we read of the Queen laying a wreath "in memory of the glorious dead". Immediately opposite we read that the United States and Britain move to the brink of a military attack on Iraq.

From Mr Colin MacLean

Sir, I agree with Mr G. A. McKenzie (letter, November 10) about the protocol of the 1930s bus stop: no queue but no boarding out of turn. In my experience, however, the queue did not originate in the Second World War.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 10: The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon left Dublin in the Republic of Ireland and later arrived at City Airport, Belfast, Northern Ireland.
His Royal Highness, Patron and Trustee, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, afterwards attended the General Council at the Waterfront Hotel, Belfast, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the County Borough of Belfast (Colonel Elliott Wilson).

Today's royal engagements

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will visit the White Tower at the Tower of London at 11.30. Later they will host a reception at Buckingham Palace to mark the 50th birthday of the Prince of Wales in recognition of the achievements of the many organisations linked with His Royal Highness, who will attend with representatives from those organisations at 6.00.

Dinners

University of Bristol
The Lord-Lieutenant for Bristol, Mr Jay Tidmarsh, attended a dinner held for patrons and friends of the University of Bristol last night at the Institution of Civil Engineers, London.

Birthdays today

Sir Ewart Bell, former civil servant, 74; Admiral Sir George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury, 63; Sir John Coles, former diplomat, 61; Miss Whoopi Goldberg, actress, 43; Lord Jacobs, 67; the Rev Patricia Johns, former Headmistress, St Mary's School, Warrage, 65; Mr Kenneth Kemp, former chairman, Smith and Nephew, 77; Major-General J.D. Lunt, 81; Mr John B. McGuckian, chairman, Ulster Television, 59; Dr Basil Morson, clinical pathologist, 77; Admiral Sir William G'Brien, 82; Miss Alexandra Shulman, Editor, British Vogue, 41; Sir Donald Thompson, former MP, 67; Sir Miles Walker, former Chief Minister, Isle of Man Government, 58.

Bristol Grammar School

The Board of Governors of Bristol Grammar School announce the appointment of Dr David Masood, BA, PhD, as Headmaster to succeed Mr Charles Martin on his retirement in August 1999. Dr Masood is presently Deputy Headmaster of Bristol Grammar School.

The Purcell School

The Governors of The Purcell School have appointed Mr John Tolputt, BA, as Headmaster, in succession to Mr John Bain. Mr Tolputt, who is at present Headmaster of Rendcomb College, Cirencester, will take up his appointment on September 1, 1999.

Reception

Middle East International
Sir Dennis Walters, Chairman, and Directors of Middle East International held a reception last night at the Royal Thames Yacht Club to mark the occasion of the re-design of the publication Middle East International.

Service dinner

Fyde Officers' Association
The High Sheriff of Lancashire was the principal guest at the annual dinner of the Fyde Officers' Association held at the Savoy Hotel, Blackpool, last night. Acting Chief Executive, Maintenance Group Defence Agency, was the principal service guest.



Regina Krahl, curator of the 100 Masterpieces of Imperial Chinese Ceramic exhibition, with a rare 15th-century Imperial Ming jar. The exhibition opens at the Royal Academy next Tuesday

Memorial service

Sir David Hunt
The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Baroness Ramsay of Carlisle at a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Sir David Hunt, a former diplomat, held yesterday at St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey.

Receptions

HM Government
Mrs Barbara Roche, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Small Firms, Department of Trade and Industry, was the host at a reception held yesterday at Lancaster House on the occasion of the annual meeting of the UK-Korea Forum for the Future.

Service luncheon

Levant Schooner Flotilla
Commander A.C. Seligman, RNR, presided at the annual luncheon of the Levant Schooner Flotilla held yesterday at the Royal Thames Yacht Club.

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Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.J.H. Bloy and Miss E.D. Klori
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs Robin Bloy, of Hove, East Sussex, and Eleni, daughter of Mr and Mrs Kyriacos Klori, of Akantou, Cyprus.
Mr N.J. Buttery and Miss D.M. Templeman
The engagement is announced between Nathan, son of Dr and Mrs Roger Buttery, of Cambridge, and Debbie, daughter of the Rev the Hon and Mrs Peter Templeman, of Finchley, London.

Luncheon

Consular Corps of London
Mr Gavin Casey, Chief Executive of the London Stock Exchange, was the guest of honour at the monthly luncheon of the Consular Corps of London held yesterday at the Hyatt Carlton Tower Hotel. Mr Lawrence Landau, president, was in the chair.

Receptions

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PERSONAL COLUMN

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BIRTHS
ACHESON-GRAY - On November 10th 1998, to Miranda (née Wilson) and Colin, a daughter, Lucy Mary, a sister for Lucy.
ASHWORTH-KWASNIK - On 2nd November 1998, to Tessa and Stefan, a daughter, Benjamin Alexander, a dear brother for Georgina.
BARTON - On November 8th 1998, to Frances (née Emrys-Roberts) and Andy, a daughter, Savannah Clara Emrys, a sister for Jessica and Christopher.

DEATHS
BAIN - Heather Christian (née Maddison Green) peacefully on 11th November in her 91st year. Much loved by daughter Sue and son-in-law Roy and sister of Mary.
ESPLEY - On 10th November 1998, after a short illness, Peter Derek, much loved husband of Joan, died peacefully at home.
GUDERA - Major (Retd) PM (Paddy) died suddenly November 9th at his home, 100, The Grange, Bolton, Lancashire.
LONG - Gerald, died Paris 8th November 1998. Much loved husband, father and grandfather.
ROCHE - Major Terence John died peacefully on November 11th 1998 aged 71. Beloved husband of Teresa, brother of Brian and Paul, father of Fiona and Teresa, father-in-law of Chris and Marie, and grandfather of his dear granddaughters, Michelle, Joanne, May, Anne, George and Henry. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him. No flowers.

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Advertisements for various services including: TICKETS FOR SALE, FLATSHARE, SERVICES, WANTED, OVERSEAS TRAVEL, FARESHARE, ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES, and JETWORLD.

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hcoming rriages

Mr R. Mansfield and Miss C.G. Spencer... Mr D.L. Marinneau and Miss A.L.K. Taylor... Mr H.N. Peet and Miss C.B. Moore...

Anniversaries

Mr P. McFerran and Miss S.A. Hodgins... Mr B. Munro and Miss C.M. Pries-White...

Church news

St Andrew's Church, 10 Downing Street... St Martin's Church, 10 Downing Street...

OBITUARIES

Peter Cotes, actor, producer and director, died on November 10 aged 86. He was born on March 19, 1912.

Peter Cotes had the misfortune to be the first director of The Mousetrap... Cotes had an active career in the 1950s and 1960s as a film and television director...

of Manchester's Library Theatre, and it was with venues such as these that Cotes made his name as a producer of challenging new drama.

Cotes found the tyranny of the star system if anything even more repugnant than censorship... Cotes's reluctance to compromise seemed to become more marked over the years...



Cotes: success with The Mousetrap overshadowed a varied career

demanded corrections, even in the 1990s, to newspaper articles which overlooked his role... Cotes's real name - the one he used in court - was Sydney Arthur Rembrandt Boulting.

He was born in Maidenhead, to parents who had been actors in South Africa and who retained a great love of the stage... Cotes returned to the capital in 1950, reopening the Boltons theatre in South Kensington...

1946. Three months later he produced the play which established his reputation as a champion of independent drama... Cotes was proud of his work on The Mousetrap, even though it was in no sense an artistic match for some of his other productions...

working for Binkie Beaumont in the West End; engaged to direct Deep are the Roots, a Broadway drama about racial prejudice... His first marriage, to Myfanwy Jones, was dissolved. His second wife, the Canadian-born actress Joan Miller, died in 1988.

HENRY JAMES

Henry James, civil servant, died on November 10 aged 78. He was born on December 12, 1919.



James: believed his role at No 10 was to help the press

HENRY JAMES had the unique distinction of being press secretary to four postwar Prime Ministers... Yet he will be remembered as much for his inspirational leadership of the Central Office of Information and the Government Information Service...

Bickell, a school romance, and together they forged a lifelong partnership that encompassed all the facets of his work and their shared passion for the theatre... Henry James considered himself fortunate that he then entered the Government Information and Communication Service...

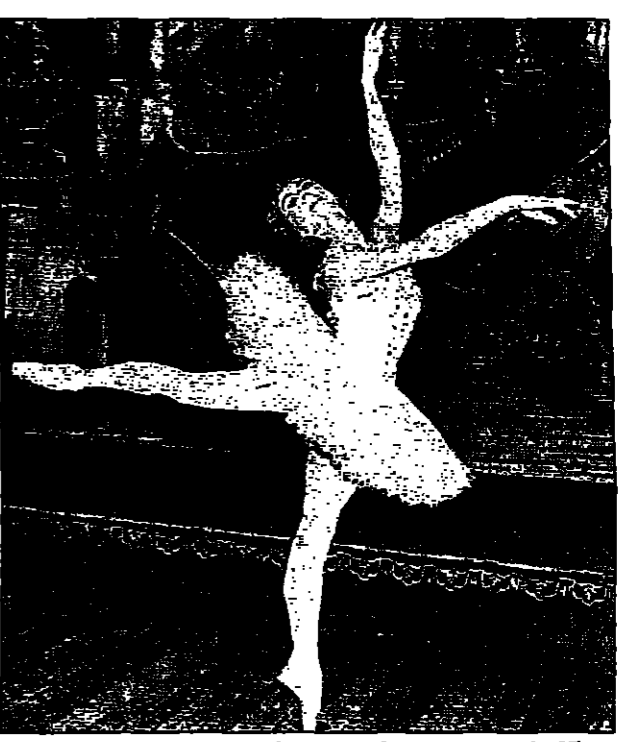
He then spent time as the chief press officer at the Ministry of Education for a year, 1963-64... The relationships and confidence James established with the American media while working for Harold Wilson helped to strengthen the so-called "special relationship" at a critical time...

Downing Street as press secretary to Margaret Thatcher and the newly elected Conservative Government... After seeing his successor, Bernard Ingham, into the Downing Street hot seat, James joined the world of pensions and insurance...

He was unstinting with his time, experience and eloquence in speaking to groups of civil servants and government information officers from the newly emerging democracies of the world... His wife died in 1989. They had no children.

SVETLANA BERIOSOVA

Svetlana Beriosova, ballerina, died in London on November 10 aged 66. She was born in Kaunas, Lithuania, on September 24, 1932.



Svetlana Beriosova dancing the Princess Aurora in The Sleeping Beauty at Covent Garden in 1960

IT IS a curious example of the continuity of ballet tradition that Svetlana Beriosova, who was born in Lithuania and had her early training in the Russian manner, became with the Royal Ballet one of the outstanding dancers in the English classical style... Later that year she appeared with the Grand Ballet de Monte Carlo and with Metropolitan Ballet...

and The Sleeping Beauty, and she accepted several invitations to dance with the state companies of Europe... In these classic roles Beriosova revealed an exceptionally beautiful quality of movement, fluent, almost creamy in texture...

"Enforced Ceremony" episode in Images of Love... Above all, Frederick Ashton (in whose three-act ballets Sylvia, Cinderella and Ondine she also had notable success) created for her a series of leading parts...

Problems in her private life led to a reliance on alcohol, and in 1975 she retired from the stage after falling down during a performance as the Tsarina in Anastasia at Covent Garden... Her marriage to Dr Masud Khan was dissolved in 1974. They had no children.

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THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL

In drama and novel, more recently in the cinema, also, the figure of the Scarlet Pimpernel, the indolent Macaroni who dared the terrors of the Revolution in France and snatched beauty and high birth from the guillotine, induced the pleasantest of innocent thrills.

ON THIS DAY

November 13, 1947... The success of Baroness Orczy with her stage character, as described by her obituarist, illustrates the truth of the old saying: "If at first you don't succeed..."

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THE TIMES

AY NOVEMBER 13 1998

TV LISTINGS

Preview: The Asian sketch show takes another wry look at British culture. *Goodness Gracious Me* (BBC2 9.30pm). Review: Paul Hoggart celebrates the wit of Virginia Wood. Pages 58, 61

OPINION

Countdown over Iraq
Wrecking Saddam Hussein was the aim. The capacity of airpower to remove him is probably not what has been a good reason for reluctance to use force. It is now a reason for backing away. Page 2

Pacts Britannica
The closer Labour and the Lib Dems become, the easier it will be for Tony Blair to achieve what he has always wanted - a reshaping of the centre-left - without the need for PR. Page 2

Gold stars
For decades, the education debate has been focused on how much government is spending. It is time to make an effort to consider the relevant issues: how that money is spent. Page 2

COLUMNS

MICHAEL GOVE
Mr Hoggart does not have time to make these errors, for if monetary policy is to be effective, it must be implemented within 12 months. It may not be around to choose the next two personnel. Page 2

MARY ANN SIEGHART
It is time for this housing and the Scots are behaving in a way that is always done. Page 2

PHILIP HOWARD
The House of Commons is a place where the great and the good of the country meet. Page 2

OBITUARIES

LETTERS

WINDY TODAY

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TODAY



BUSINESS
The banana split that threatens a trade war
PAGE 31



ARTS
Lars Ulrich beats the drum for mighty Metallica
PAGES 35-38



MEDIA
How ONdigital's chief plans to reach for Sky
PAGES 39-42

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft FRIDAY NOVEMBER 13 1998

BT chief says Brown's figures 'too optimistic'

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

BRITISH TELECOM said yesterday that it was preparing for a slowdown in the economy and suggested that Gordon Brown's forecasts for GDP growth were too optimistic.

Sir Peter Bonfield, the BT chief executive, said: "We are expecting a slowdown. We don't think it is going to be a bloodbath. We are prepared for a slowdown but what we see is a slowdown in growth, not an absolute reduction."

Robert Brace, finance director, said the Chancellor's estimates for growth of 1 per cent to 1.5 per cent were "too optimistic". The reality, he said, was likely to be in the 0 to 1 per cent range.

BT reported pre-tax profits of £1.87 billion for the second quarter to September 30. These included exceptional income of £1.07 billion, largely reflecting the profit of more than £1.1 billion from the sale of BT's stake in MCI.



Sir Peter Bonfield predicts a slowdown in growth, but rules out an economic bloodbath

The money from MCI meant that debt had been reduced to £526 million (or gearing of only 4 per cent) but Sir Peter said it was unlikely that there would be a share buyback in the current financial year. Instead, BT would continue "investing for growth".

Capital expenditure for the half-year totalled £1.3 billion, most of it spent on modernising the BT network and enabling the launch of new Internet products. BT's share of operating losses for new ventures totalled £56 million for the second quarter and £134 million for the half year, in line with expectations.

Analysts are forecasting pre-tax profits of about £3.3 billion before exceptional for the full year.

ICI emerges as potential buyer in Zeneca deal

BY PAUL DURMAN

ICI has declared itself a potential buyer of the specialty chemicals division put up for sale yesterday by Zeneca - a deal that would reunite the business with its former owner.

The business of Zeneca Specialties was part of ICI until 1993, when it was demerged along with the pharmaceutical and agrochemical operations that together form Zeneca.

Now five times more valuable than ICI, Zeneca wants to take advantage of the enthusiasm for deals in the rapidly restructuring specialty chemicals sector.

ICI is attempting to reinvent itself as a specialty chemicals company, but it may struggle to afford the £1 billion-£1.5 billion price tag that analysts expect the Zeneca business to fetch.

ICI is currently labouring under about £4.4 billion of debt because of delays in disposing of its heavy chemicals interests.

ICI said that it was "always interested in good quality specialty businesses and will be considering this opportunity carefully".

It would prefer to buy only parts of the business, but Sir David Barnes, Zeneca's chief executive, wants to sell it to a single buyer.

Other possible buyers include BASF, Bayer and Hoechst, which would all be attracted by the fast-growing business making intermediates for pharmaceuticals manufacture. Zeneca Specialties also makes dyes and inks for ink jet printers, resins and leather chemicals.

David Phillips, a Sutherland's analyst, said that the business would also fit well with Ciba Specialty Chemicals and Clariant, but the Swiss

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5448.0	(-27.8)
Nikkei	14075.06	(-332.88)
Dow Jones	8876.08	(+52.25)
S&P Composite	1123.48	(+2.48)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5%	(N/A)
Long bond	5.26%	(...)
Yield		

LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	6 3/4%	(6 3/4%)
Life long gilt		
Future (Dec)	114.88	(114.37)

STERLING

New York		
S	1.6572*	(1.6525)
London		
DM	1.6530	(1.6512)
DM	2.7881	(2.7850)
FF	1.2855	(1.2835)
SF	2.3058	(2.3004)
Yen	204.75	(202.33)
E index	100.8	(100.4)

\$\$\$ \$ DOLLAR

London		
DM	1.6535*	(1.6575)
FF	5.6790*	(5.6255)
SF	1.2855	(1.2835)
Yen	123.10*	(121.85)
S index	107.7	(106.7)

Tokyo close Yen 123.24

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jan)	\$12.75	(\$12.50)
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London close \$295.86 (\$293.35)

* denotes midday trading prices

Tories in £100m rail link bill claim

BY JASON NISSE AND ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE Government was yesterday accused of adding £100 million to the cost of building the Channel Tunnel high-speed rail link through an off-balance sheet accounting move that keeps down the public sector borrowing requirement.

David Heathcoat-Amory, the Tory Treasury spokesman, has written to Geoffrey Robinson, Paymaster General, querying the deal in which the Government will guarantee £2.65 billion of bonds issued by London & Continental Railways, which is building the link.

Research by CSFB, the broker, shows that if the Government had raised the money itself, and lent it to LCR, financial investors would have been prepared to accept an interest rate up to 0.3 per cent lower, so saving LCR £100 million.

This structure would make no difference should LCR suffer financial difficulties, as the Government would still have to foot the bill. But it would mean the £2.65 billion would have to be included in the PSBR, a situation avoided by issuing a guarantee.

Mr Robinson admitted that there would be an extra cost but said that this was worth paying to have the discipline of the private sector financing and managing the project.

Meanwhile, Mr Robinson has announced that Sir Malcolm Bates, chairman of Pearl Assurance, is to review the Government's PFI policies.

Business of politics, page 31

Shell sheds 20% of oil products workforce

BY CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

THOUSANDS of Shell employees were yesterday told that their jobs would be eliminated in a massive restructuring of the oil company's refining and marketing businesses across Europe.

Shell has increased the job attrition rate from 15 to 20 per cent of its 15,000 strong oil products workforce since the restructuring was first mooted a year ago. Most of the job losses will be on the Continent, with some 370 jobs to go in Germany and 200 in Holland.

The Shell announcement coincided with news that Texaco was laying off 1,000 workers, accounting for 12 per cent of its oil exploration staff, to save \$200 million (£121 million) a year. The job cuts are likely to include staff involved in Texaco's North Sea operations. The

industry is grappling with the problem of restoring profits to operations crippled by low oil prices. This week Mobil and Chevron announced cuts in capital spending due to the low oil price. The UK is particularly vulnerable to cutbacks owing to the high cost of operating in the North Sea.

A spokesman for Shell UK said that between 100-150 downstream jobs would be lost in Britain. He indicated that not all the job losses would be redundancies as some functions, such as road distribution and computer services, were being outsourced with staff transferring to external suppliers.

Shares in the Anglo-Dutch company rose yesterday on expectations that a new conflict in the Gulf would boost the oil

Wassall builds up BICC stake

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

WASSALL, the acquisitive industrial conglomerate, has built up a 7.35 per cent stake in BICC, the struggling cables and construction business.

A spokesman for Wassall, which recently took over TLG for £353 million, said the 30.9 million BICC shares had been bought as "an investment". He declined to say whether or not Wassall was planning a bid.

Wassall built up its shareholding in TLG over 18 months before a bid by Cooper Industries of Texas prompted it to respond with a higher offer.

BICC shares have recovered since a profit warning in late October sent them to a low of 38p. The shares rose 3p to 57p yesterday.

Market report page 30

Scottish Media tunes in to Capital Radio

BY JASON NISSE AND CHRIS AYRES

SCOTTISH Media Group, whose interests range from television to newspapers, is looking at making a £500 million offer for Capital Radio as part of its attempts to break out of its Scottish base.

An offer for Capital, which would more than double the size of Scottish Media, has been discussed by the Scottish board. Yesterday the group tried to play down prospects for a bid amid speculation that its largest shareholders, Mirror Group and Flextech, were lukewarm about the idea.

Scottish Media made an offer for VCI, the video maker, earlier this year but was outbid by Kingfisher.

Capital Radio yesterday reassured investors that the market for radio advertising had "remained buoyant" during

the year to September 30, in spite of growing evidence of an economic slowdown. It added that independent research groups forecast the market to grow by as much as 11.5 per cent in 1999.

The company pleased the City with an 8 per cent rise in pre-tax profits from £35.1 million to £37.8 million on sales of £117.2 million, up 9.8 per cent from £106.8 million. Earnings per share rose 8.4 per cent from 32.3p to 35p, and a final dividend of 10.5p, up from 9.45p, will be paid on April 6. Shares in Capital remained unchanged at 562.5p.

David Mansfield, chief executive, defended Capital's involvement in restaurants but said that the company had disposed of its outlets in Germany as well as The

Chicago Pizza Pie Factory in Dublin and Beach Blanket Babylon in London.

Capital also said that over the next year it would pump about £2 million into Xfm, the London alternative rock station it bought through a controversial £18 million deal in July. Mr Mansfield said the station was not expected to become profitable for up to three years but that he hoped it would become "a world-class alternative rock station".

The company also revealed that its failed acquisition of Virgin Radio had cost nearly £1 million in fees, and that its Internet service had incurred an operating loss of £750,000 on sales of about £1 million. Capital said that Wildstar, its joint venture record label with Telstar, had made a small profit.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Wassall stakebuilding puts Delta on bid alert

THE board of Delta has gone on bid alert with the shares rallying to 140p.



Tony Illsley, chief executive, left and Charles Burdick, finance director, saw Telewest up to 135p on reduced losses

WestLB Panmure, the broker, snapped up 20 million BICC shares, or 5 per cent, to take Wassall's total holding to 30.9 million.

Delta is in a similar position with the price having collapsed from 340p earlier this year after it reported heavy losses of £22.5 million.

At these levels it is capitalised at £209 million, almost half the value of TT, which is believed to have already built up a stake of about 1 per cent.

Brokers reported heavy turnover in Marks & Spencer with the price firming up to 448p as more than 20 million shares changed hands.

Prices had been marked sharply lower at the outset in the face of losses overnight in New York and the Far East.

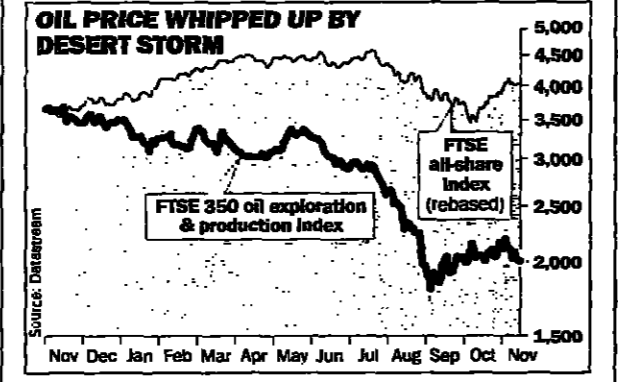
Marston's advanced 11p to 242p awaiting possible terms from Wolverhampton & Dudley, 3p firmer at 421p.

materialise. The price climbed 16p to 212p as Masco, of America, made an agreed bid of 220p a share valuing the company at £40.5 million.

Bid speculation continued to drive London Forfeiting higher with the price ending 11p better at 131p.

United Overseas nursing a loss of 18p to 275p. It says profits in the second half will not show the traditional increase over the first six months.

Haden MacLellan dropped 22p to 59p after a profits warning. An upbeat trading statement lifted Gearhouse Group 17p to 240p.



FTSE 350 oil exploration & production index

THE mounting tension over Iraq has provided the springboard for a long-overdue rally in the oil price, albeit a brief one.

Prices had been marked sharply lower at the outset in the face of losses overnight in New York and the Far East.

MAJOR INDICES

Table of major indices including New York (Dow Jones, S&P Composite), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London, and others.

RECENT ISSUES

Table of recent issues including Anglian Water, Colt Assets Trust, First Active, Guinness, etc.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table of rights issues including Innovative Tech, etc.

MAJOR CHANGES

Table of major changes in stock prices including Stock, Hurlingham, etc.

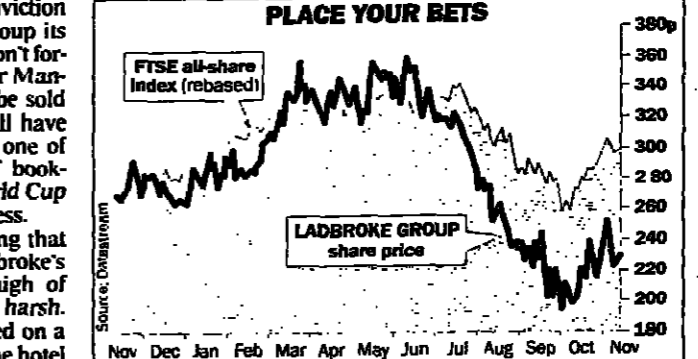
TEMPUS Alarm call

RECESSION-SPOTTING is a fashionable sport. So it was inevitable that once Sir Peter Borth, chief executive of BT, mentioned the word "slowdown", even though he quickly offered assurance that there would be no process intensification when Robert Brace, BT's finance director, traded GDP forecasts with Gordon Brown, the Chancellor.

business, yet it has only been in the past few weeks that there has been any significant sign of softening after years of strong growth.

POWERGEN has served its investors well in recent months. Since buying East Midlands Electricity it has fulfilled its ambition of both generating and selling electricity - giving double exposure to a reliable market and making the company even more of a safe haven.

THE profit figures released by ED&F Man, which show a rather banal 9.6 per cent decline, hide a complex mixture of fortunes.



FTSE all-share index (rebased) and LADBROKE share price

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including LUFFE, COCOA, ROASTED COFFEE, WHITE SUGAR, MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures including Long Gilt, German Govt Bond, Five Year Gilt, etc.

DOLLAR RATES

Table of dollar rates for various currencies including Australia, Canada, Denmark, etc.

WALL STREET

Table of Wall Street stock prices including AAPL, AMZN, MSFT, etc.

LIFE OPTIONS

Table of life options including various insurance and investment products.

MONEY RATES (%)

Table of money rates for various banks and currencies.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table of European money deposits for various currencies and terms.

FTSE VOLUMES

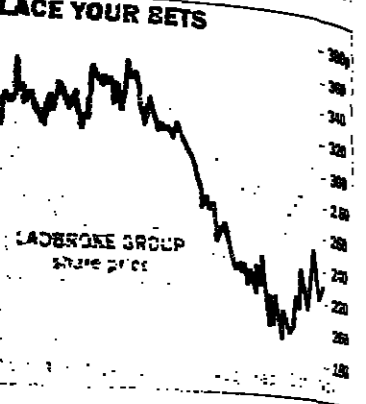
Table of FTSE volumes for various companies and sectors.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, partially cut off, with text like 'The tra that ri' and 'City lim'.

call

...of a commission that BT will face on...

...and Kenya are all struggling...



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WALL STREET

Unfinished business for PFI task force

The Government's predilection for task forces has frequently been met with cries of derision by business. For industry figures — well, at least those unfortunate few who have not received an invitation to join any of the 50-odd committees — task forces represent all the worst sins of Government. They imply prevarication over firm decision-making, paper shuffling over committed action.

So it comes as some surprise to find that business is leading a campaign to reprieve at least one of these task forces from its scheduled closure next summer. The Confederation of British Industry is appealing to the Treasury to extend the life of the Private Finance Initiative task force. The CBI has made no doubt that the task force has made a huge difference to the prickly problems of the PFI.

For Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General who is ultimately responsible for the PFI, this demand is something of a mixed blessing. The fact that business feels that at least one task force is actually doing the job it was entrusted with is certainly flattering. However, if the PFI task force had been completely successful, the Treasury would be able to announce its dissolution with great fanfare. Mr Robinson has, in classic Government fashion, passed on the problem for the moment and invited Sir Malcolm Bates, chairman of Pearl Group, to conduct a second review.

There is little doubt that, rather like Mr Robinson himself, the PFI is now becoming an established part of the Treasury landscape after a rather bumpy start. The early PFI projects met with profound public and private sector cynicism. The private sector found the process cumbersome and costly, with apparently limited financial gains in the longer term. The public sector lacked the requisite commercial skills to bring projects to completion and, in many cases, remained culturally at odds with the whole concept.

The task force, which has attempted to streamline the bidding process as well as target priority projects, has helped to make PFI deals viable. The Government has signed a respectable £4 billion worth of deals during the past 18 months. It is hoping gently to accelerate this pace of activity to meet the £11 billion target figure outlined by Gordon Brown in last week's pre-Budget report. Yet the PFI could be set to play an even more pivotal role in the next few years. The Chancellor has made great play of his plans to increase spending on public infrastructure while keeping a tight rein on the overall budgetary position. This has left the Treasury with little room to manoeuvre, and the Government may be forced to turn increasingly to the PFI as a means of reconciling its commitments with the sharp economic slowdown expected by all but the Bank and the Treasury.



ALASDAIR MURRAY

This means the Mark II Bates review will have to tackle not only the existing problems but how the PFI, and the broader public/private partnership range of projects, can be expanded into new areas.

The transatlantic banana split that risks a world trade war

Carl Mortished reports on the unlikely source of a looming global crisis over exports



A banana cutter on one of Chiquita's plantations in Costa Rica. Chiquita has lobbied against the EU's trade regime

The price of bananas is going up. Hurricane Mitch has cut a swath through the vast Central American plantations operated by US fruit multinationals. The cyclone has ripped out plants and damaged infrastructure. Some 70 per cent of Honduras' agriculture has been wiped out. It will take years to restore production to normal levels and the shortfall should lead to hefty price increases.

Weather and markets are uncontrollable and farmers must live with the consequences. But bananas are becoming expensive in more insidious ways. Far from the wreckage in the Honduran jungle, people in plush offices in Washington, Brussels and Geneva are plotting a trade war.

The battle is over European restrictions on the import of Latin American bananas, so-called "dollar bananas". Europe operates a preferential regime for bananas produced in African and Caribbean countries, mainly former colonies of Britain and France. Latin American producers and the US fruit combines, Dole and Chiquita Brands, have cried foul. This week the US Government produced a shopping list of European exports, ranging from tweed jackets to French wine which would be hampered with 100 per cent tariffs if the EU failed to reform its banana regime.

Indignant cries from the respective US and EU trade litigators, Charlene Barshefsky and Sir Leon Brittan are now becoming shrill. Positions have become entrenched and officials in the World Trade Organisation in Geneva worry that trade doors may slam shut as the world teters on the edge of recession.

Alarmist? After all, bananas are of marginal interest to most people. True, farmers in producing countries depend on them for a living; for many Caribbean countries, preferential access to EU markets is critical as small island producers cannot hope to compete on cost with the vast Central American plantations. In the West Indies the prospect of a flood of Chiquita or Dole produce is terrifying.

an answer would be available within three months. If the WTO panel found in favour of America, the US could take the matter to the WTO dispute settlement body and request retaliation against Europe. Such authority can only be refused by unanimous agreement of the body (which includes the US) and an arbitrator decides the quantum of damages.

The parties must then agree which goods will suffer the penalty of import duties. That opens the door for a colossal row not just between governments but with domestic exporters. French wine makers and Scotch whisky producers will not take kindly to being sacrificed for the sake of banana growers in Trinidad.

As one trade expert remarked: "The guy who had better get someone else to switch on his car engine in the morning." The stand-off indicates clearly that neither side is ready to go down such a perilous road. But unless Brussels and Washington can cobble together a compromise they may be forced into a round of unsavoury horse-trading at the WTO headquarters in Geneva.

The banana war is a test case of Europe and America's commitment to the settlement procedures they created. Pressure is mounting on the Clinton Administration to do something about dumping of Asian steel and semiconductors.

Web of policy queries fails to entangle Eddie

For "Steady Eddie" it was a chance to prove that, despite all the recent criticism, he is still the people's central banker. Eddie George yesterday opted to become the first Governor of the Bank of England to submit himself to trial by Internet, going live online to answer questions from small businessmen and women from across the country.

The question and answer session, which took place on the Department of Trade and Industry's small business website, was billed as a chance to quiz Mr George about the single currency. However, the participants could not resist grilling the Governor over interest rates, the pound, and his apparent gaffe over unemployment in the North East being a necessary price for curbing inflation in the South. Mr George insisted that the point he was making about unemployment was that monetary policy could not be used to "address different levels of unemployment".



Eddie George meets the people in cyberspace

Oh, and Mr George, who is described as an "infrequent" Internet user, admitted that he takes the "Steady Eddie" nickname as a compliment.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

City limits

TODAY Buckingham Palace will give more details of the visit by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh to the City on Wednesday. I notice, however, an odd quirk in the proposed itinerary. It is either a reflection of how widely the financial community has spread or some peculiar royal fondness for sitting in traffic jams, because only half her destinations are actually in the City.

Merrill Lynch is just outside the boundary. The Financial Services Authority is in Canary Wharf. Electra is in Kingsway and the Financial



er and the Financial Services Authority. All, one would have thought, with plenty of secrets to keep to themselves.

the Pacific Rim to study business there. "It will be an icon of capitalism within a communist regime," says Philip Vale of Durham University. I wonder what those communists made of Durham, which in my day was terribly ra-ra and green wellies. There was even a club devoted to beagling, an unspeakably cruel sport where you take the dogs out into the country and make them smoke cigarettes.

ALL that money spent on marble, and the fire alarm plays up. The European Bank of Reconstruction and Development opened for business again yesterday, having lost half a day's trading on Wednesday. The techies were busy overhauling the fire alarm software when someone elsewhere set off a smoke alarm.

As the main alarm had been switched off, the entire building had to be evacuated from lunchtime onwards. Staff milling about in Bishoppate were finally told by loudhailer to go home.

Livingstone. So a businessman, well-known, tough, ideally with no obvious party political allegiances and with solid London roots. Who better than Alan Sugar?



Alan Sugar needs spurring on to be mayor of London

Mortgages

NOTICE OF INTEREST RATE VARIATION

The following interest rates for mortgages provided by Banking Direct, a Division of Bank of Scotland, will apply with effect from 1st November 1998 for both new and existing borrowers.

- Banking Direct Mortgage Rate (Variable) 8.69% per annum.
- Centrebank Mortgage Rate (Variable) 8.69% per annum.
- Stabilised Charging Rate 8.99% per annum.
- Adaptable Mortgage Plan Charging Rate 8.85% per annum.
- Banking Direct Mortgage Rate Plus (Variable) 9.19% per annum.
- Centrebank Mortgage Rate Plus (Variable) 9.19% per annum.
- Home Loan Rate 8.69% per annum.

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"It frightens me, some of the material children can access on their computers"

INDUSTRIAL espionage at Canary Wharf has banned distribution of the new weekly tabloid. The Wharf, because it is produced by its neighbour, the Mirror Group.

Well red FORGET Harvard, France's Insead or the London Business School, the place for the business leaders of tomorrow to study for their MBAs will be Hanoi. (Which I will always associate with Jane Fonda, but that's my age, I suppose).

Resilient performance by equities

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of equity prices for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ENGINEERING VEHICLES, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MINEING, MINING, OTHER FINANCIAL, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS FOOD, RETAILERS GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, WATER, and ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET.

Main table of equity prices with columns for company name, price, change, and percentage change.

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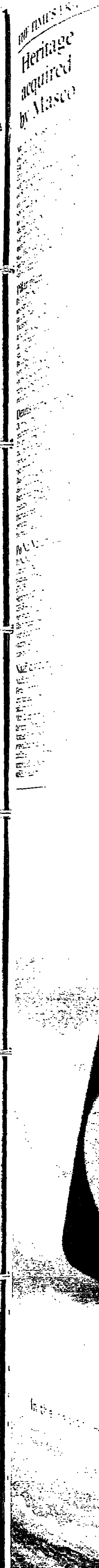
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Table of BRITISH FUNDS with columns for fund name, price, and change.

Table of SHORTS (under 5 years) and LONGS (over 15 years) with columns for fund name, price, and change.

Table of UNDATED and INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of 5% with columns for fund name, price, and change.

Table of equity prices for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ENGINEERING VEHICLES, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MINEING, MINING, OTHER FINANCIAL, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS FOOD, RETAILERS GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, WATER, and ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET.



Heritage acquired by Masco

America's Masco is taking over Heritage Bathrooms for £40.5 million. Masco's offer of 220p a share has already secured acceptances in respect of 50.15 per cent of the UK company. The terms represent a 44.3 per cent premium to the price at which the shares traded before bid talks were made public earlier this month. In its last financial year Heritage earned pre-tax profits of £4.78 million on sales of £22 million.

Pillar plan

Pillar Property, the property investment and development group, has joined London Transport to submit a planning proposal for the £55 million redevelopment of the site surrounding Fulham Broadway Underground station. The proposal includes shops, a supermarket, restaurants, a 12-screen cinema complex and a health club.

Dennis wins orders

Dennis, the vehicle manufacturer acquired by Mayflower Corporation earlier this month, has won orders for new buses worth £40 million from New World First Bus, of Hong Kong. It was also announced that Steve Burton has resigned as chief executive. Brendan Geary, finance director, will leave the company in February, when the head office is due to close.

Po Na Na ahead

Po Na Na Group, which runs a chain of bars, yesterday announced pre-tax profit of £70,356, for the six months to September 27, compared with £36,504 last time. Earnings per share were 3.11p (0.47p). The company began the year with 15 bars, spread across the country, and plans to have 24 bars by the end of the year.

Naafi dividend up

Naafi, the Navy, Army, Air Force Institutes, yesterday announced a profit of £7.9 million for the year ending May 2, up from £5.2 million last time. Owned mutually by Armed Forces personnel and providing retail and leisure facilities, it returned an increased dividend of £2.9 million (£2.5 million).

Acquisitive Bank of Ireland to splash out

By CAROLINE MERRELL

THE Bank of Ireland, which owns the Bristol & West, plans to spend up to £700 million on buying another UK bank or building society.

The bank's announcement came as it revealed that interim pre-tax profits before exceptional items had risen by 34 per cent from Ir£250 million (£227 million) to Ir£334 million (£307 million). Exceptional items boosted the profits to Ir£537 million. These included the Ir£172.4 million from the sale of the group's 23.5 per cent shareholding in the Citizens Financial Group.

Paul D'Alton, the group's financial officer, said that the bank had managed to increase its profits over the six-month period, in contrast to some of the other banks, because it was not exposed to emerging markets, nor did it have any exposure to hedge funds.

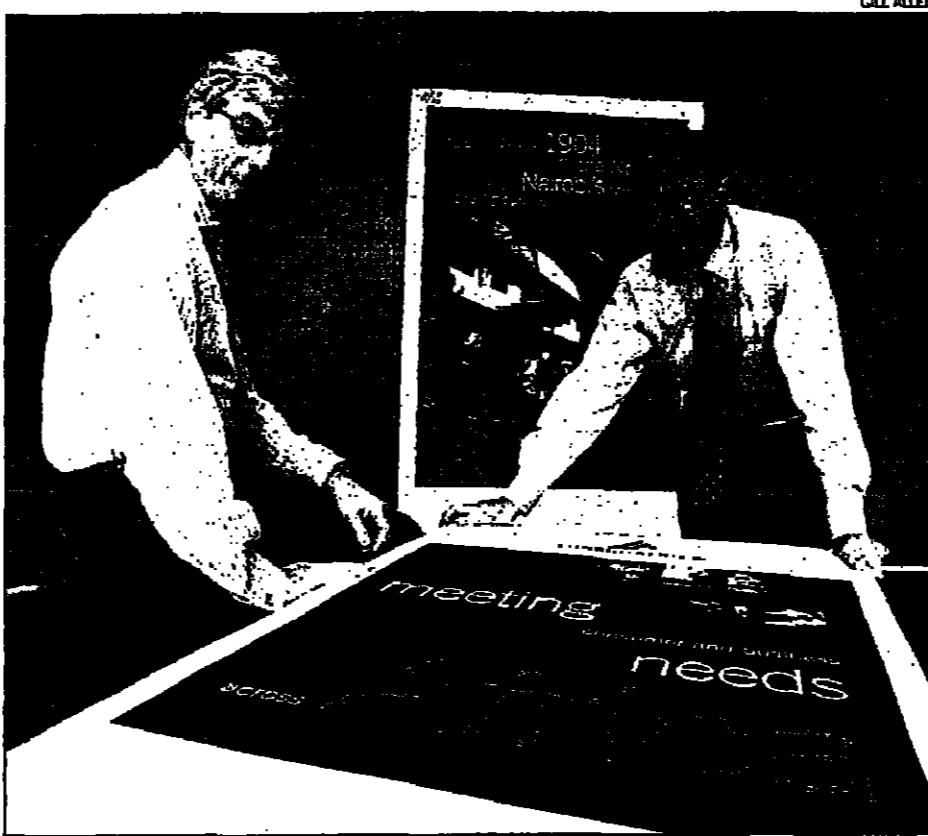
Mr D'Alton said: "We operate a low-risk business." He added that the bank was not

interested in buying a life insurance company, but is instead keeping an eye on the UK building society sector. He added: "We are not in any hurry to make a purchase."

The West Bromwich, Portman and Cheshire are within the price range of the Bank of Ireland. However, all three societies claim that they are keen to remain mutual.

Mr D'Alton said that the group was particularly pleased with the results generated by the Bristol & West, which was bought by the Bank of Ireland last year. The Bristol & West contributed £76.5 million to total profits. He said that the former building society's share of new lending had increased in spite of increased competition in the lending market.

The group pointed out that it has spent a total of £28.7 million on the Year 2000 project and the single currency. The bank is paying an interim dividend of 9.2p.



Mark Newman, left, with Keith Atkinson, Lonrho Africa's finance director, yesterday

Lonrho Africa resists coup

BOARD members of Lonrho Africa have hit back at the attempts by Blakeney, the asset management group, to oust the Africa specialist's chairman, Bernard Asher, and two other non-executive directors, Stephen Walls and Michael Wilson (Jason Nissé writes).

Blakeney yesterday posted a letter to shareholders calling for an extraordinary general meeting to replace the three

directors with three of its own appointees.

A compromise deal was rejected by Lonrho Africa because it would have created an executive committee, half of whose members would have been Blakeney nominees. Lonrho Africa said this would have been control by the back door.

Mark Newman, Lonrho Africa's chief executive, said

yesterday that the company had rejected Blakeney's plans because "the existing board has the right strategy and the right directors for the future of Lonrho Africa".

He added that links between Blakeney's nominees and two other groups operating in the continent — Africa Lakes and Africa Plantations — meant they had a conflict of interest with Lonrho Africa.

Telewest sales rise under new chief

TELEWEST, the cable television giant that recently hired Tony Illsley, the former Walkers Crisps supremo, as its chief executive, yesterday revealed a small fall in year-on-year third-quarter losses from £91 million to £85 million (Chris Ayres writes).

The group, which recently merged with General Cable and increased its stake in Birmingham Cable to 72 per cent, saw a 38 per cent rise in sales from £100 million to £138 million. Losses per share fell from 0.09p to 0.05p. Debt at the end of the quarter was £2 billion.

Telewest saw cable television customers increase by 16 per cent during the quarter to 675,000, with average monthly spend per customer falling slightly to £23. Residential telephone customers, meanwhile, rose 15 per cent to 876,000, with average monthly spend per line again falling slightly to £19.

Mr Illsley said: "We believe our combination of local access, national network and broadband capacity positions us well to meet the rapidly growing demand for business services, especially the higher-margin products."

Asset management boosts ED&F Man

A STRONG performance by the asset management business of ED&F Man, the commodities and financial services group, offset a collapse in profits at its commodity trading arm (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Underlying pre-tax profit in the six months to September rose by 39 per cent from £39.7 per cent to £55.3 million. Earnings per share rose from 10.4p to 15.4p and the company is paying an interim dividend of 4p.

Collapsing demand in the Far East and Russian markets led to a pre-tax

loss in sugar of £3.6 million compared with profits of £7.2 million last year. Molasses and alcohol made a pre-tax loss of £3.6 million compared with a £3 million profit. Cocoa, coffee and edible nuts increased profits from £6.6 million to £7.9 million.

By contrast Man Investment Products made a profit of £45.2 million, up from £15 million. The strong level of fund performance generated substantial performance-related fee income.

Times, page 30

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Warning issued by Haden MacLellan

SHARES of Haden MacLellan fell 22½p to 59½p yesterday after the engineering company gave warning of the adverse impact of a marked slowdown in the automotive industry. The company said that although it had made a promising start to the second half, the fourth quarter had "shown a rapid deterioration across most geographical markets, particularly in the automotive sector".

The market slowdown had led to delays in contracts for Haden MacLellan's process engineering division. It also had an impact on the group's fasteners and industrial services businesses in the UK. As a result, second-half profits were unlikely to match those of the first half, the company said yesterday. In September the group had reported pre-tax profits before exceptional items of £7 million in the six months to June 30. Yesterday's warning also affected other auto-component manufacturers. Shares in GKN fell back 31p to close at 65½p, TI Group dropped 17p to 336p and LucasVarity weakened 11½p to 190½p.

Staveley in demerger

STAVELEY INDUSTRIES is to proceed with plans to demerge its support services division and British Salt, with detailed proposals that are likely to be put to shareholders by July 1999. The company, which has already undergone extensive restructuring, yesterday reported a 37 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £6.3 million in the six months to September 26. Earnings rose to 4.1p a share from 2.9p. The interim dividend is held at 2.5p a share.

Bandt climbs by 50%

BANDT, a provider of scaffolding and other industrial services, said that a good overall trading performance for the six months to October 4 generated a 50 per cent increase in pre-tax profit to £4 million. Turnover was £39.48 million, up from £38.89 million for the corresponding period in the previous year. Earnings per share were 2.0p, compared with 1.8p, and the company declared an interim dividend of 0.5p, up from 0.4p.

Greycoat bidding time

GREYCOAT, the property company, reported first-half pre-tax profits unchanged at £5.6 million, but said it was well placed to take advantage of a growing shortage of prime office space in Central London. The company is a partner in a consortium that acquired the International Financial Centre, formerly the NatWest Tower, for £226 million in August. Greycoat does not pay an interim dividend but said it expects to lift the total dividend to 1.9p a share from 1.5p for the year to March 31.

Lynx leaps ahead

LYNX GROUP, the computer services company, lifted pre-tax profits to £13.25 million from £9.8 million in the year to September 30 on turnover that rose 50 per cent to £180.9 million. Earnings per share rose to 8.67p from 6.83p. A final dividend of 1.7p lifts the total to 2.25p (2p). Stewart Douglas-Mann, who succeeded Roger Pinnington as chairman in August, said the markets in which Lynx operates continue to offer substantial opportunities for growth. The shares fell 1½p to 184p.

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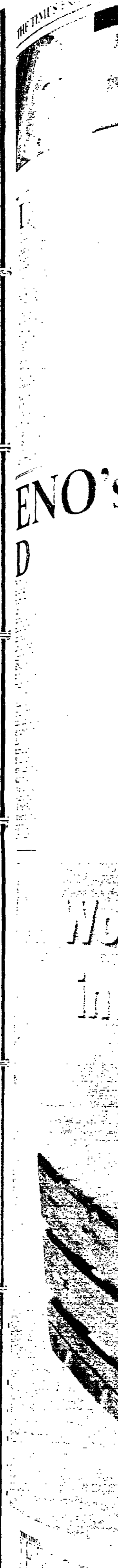
THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Table of unit trust prices for various categories including AB EQUITY UNIT TRUST LTD, CANADA LIFE UNIT TRUST, and various equity and bond funds.

Table of unit trust prices for various categories including EQUITY UNIT TRUSTS, BOND UNIT TRUSTS, and various specialty funds.

Table of unit trust prices for various categories including SPECIALIST UNIT TRUSTS, INTERNATIONAL UNIT TRUSTS, and various niche investment funds.

PURDEY Gun & Rifle Makers. Advertisement for James Purdey & Sons Ltd, featuring a logo and text about their products and services.





POP Jewel, the charmer from Alaska PAGE 37

THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE Touching social drama in Be My Baby PAGE 38



It's not that I'm superstitious or anything. Friday the Thirteenth? Just another date, mate. OK, I might set off for work an hour or two early, but only as a precaution.

Fingers crossed, we'll get through today

Then there's the problem of the black cats and the ladders. No point in taking chances. Not with Uranus in the ascendant and the tea-leaves inscrutable.

drama all pushed their luck, and look where it got them.

In fact the subject of luck-pushing obsessed the great dramatists and composers. True, some put forward the wildly optimistic view that man can control his own destiny.

Similarly, if in less exalted vein, Sky Masterson challenges luck to "be a lady tonight" in Gypsy and Dolls — and wins the heart of his Salvation Army lass with a single audacious throw of the dice.

wrong will go wrong. Who dares never wins. The bolder the deed, the nastier the outcome.

It's a bit depressing, but it does ring true. Just think how often a modern hero pushes his luck and ends up ruined. The glamorous British actor, on the verge of superstardom, really does risk everything for a quickie with a Sunset Boulevard tart.

You could say it is "bad luck" that these idols get caught in the act. But that view won't cut any ice with most dramatists.



RICHARD MORRISON

ing before his Magnum 44, you know that luck actually has nothing to do with it. The baddie is facing retribution because his character has serious flaws.

thought hopelessly implausible. Those babies swapped at birth, those mislaid handkerchiefs, those ridiculous masked balls in which a husband allegedly can't recognise his own wife...

I take the opposite view. The trouble with most things you see in the theatre is that they are all too rational, because the author usually has a philosophy of life to put across, and is manipulating the plot like crazy to justify his view.

Whereas what's baffling about ordinary life is the way that happenstance — or fate, if you like — kicks us for no reason at all.

on all the fun bits of tragedy, and jumped straight to the divine-retribution part. The car has conked out, your toddler has put his foot through the patio door, your molar aches, and you lose your wallet all on the same day.

Serious art rarely captures this helplessness — ordinary folk struggling with the daily hazard micro-disasters of our daily grind. That is because most geniuses are incapable of comprehending mediocrity.

on-the-wall "docu-dramas" that are now so ubiquitous on television are useful in this context too. I used to hate them, believing that they turned us all into mocking voyeurs.

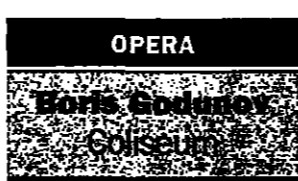
Wouldn't life be sweeter if luck played no part — if people prospered or declined in absolute proportion to their talents and efforts? Don't be daft. It would be unbearable.

ENO's unkind cuts

Did you know that there was a tradition of rhyming slang in Russia? Nor did I, but this became plain given what Della Jones's feisty Hostess of the Inn was up to while singing her song about a duck.

Basil's Cathedral scene to avoid repetition. The Kromy Forest Jesuits don't make a lot of sense without the Polish acts, either.

Still, all the ingredients for a really good Boris are here, but they didn't quite cohere into the expected knockout show on Wednesday and it's hard to say why.



OPERA

Time-travelling is also all the rage nowadays. Hildegard Bechtler's set is abstract, austere but helpfully adaptable under Wolfgang Göbbel's lighting.

John Tomlinson — whose Boris is inevitably associated with another flawed ruler, Wotan — is in fine, smooth voice, phrasing the music as expressively as he projects the text.

RODNEY MILNES



A whole less than its parts: despite John Tomlinson's fine, smooth voice, ENO's Boris Godunov failed to gel properly

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POP PROFILE

Indestructible Metallica

ARTS

LIVE GIG

Hats off to Garth Brooks

Tea and sympathy for the devil?

This time last year, when Q magazine decided to tackle the perennial question of exactly who is "the biggest band in the world", few casual observers would have tipped Metallica for a place in the Top Five. But after a mass of statistical data — including CD and concert ticket sales, airplay and other media exposure — was collected and compared, there they were, just ahead of the Rolling Stones and not far behind Oasis, U2 and the inevitable top dogs, the Spice Girls.

What's a nice thrash metal monster like Lars Ulrich doing in a posh place like this? David Sinclair finds out

later diagnosed as appendicitis and cannot attend the interview. But Ulrich, who co-founded Metallica with singer and guitarist James Hetfield in San Francisco 17 years ago, has plenty to say.

The difference between hard rock and most other sorts of music is that for the fans it becomes part of an all-encompassing lifestyle," he says. "But I can't live my life according to what they want from me."

Anyone expecting to be confronted by the flailing, bare-torsoed animal who has bludgeoned his massive Tarna double-bass drum kit on the biggest stages in the world would be disabused of the idea within minutes of meeting Ulrich in person. In real life, the Danish-born musician is clearly a man of wealth and taste, whose lifestyle could not be further removed from that of the stereotypical headbanger. The son of the former tennis pro Torben Ulrich, he has inherited a naturally athletic physique, and at the age of 34

maintains a keen interest in keeping fit. Metallica always stay at the best hotels, and when in London Ulrich usually pays a visit to Christie's auction house in search of paintings to add to his collection of 20th-century art. "The past five years I've calmed down a lot," he says. "Instead of keeping up with everything that's happening in the rock world I'm content just to put on a John Coltrane CD and kick back. Metallica are still fun, but it's no longer a matter of life and death."

Such a sanguine attitude is in sharp contrast to the early days of Metallica, when the group's fervour knew no bounds. By combining authentic metal thunder with the coolest of punk attitude, they virtually invented the searing heavy rock hybrid known as speed or thrash metal. When I first saw them, at London's Marquee club in 1984, they played with raw, minimalist zeal and at such a speed and volume that the performance verged on caricature: the Ramones of heavy metal.

"We could never draw a line between Iron Maiden, Motörhead, Venom, the Anti-Nowhere League, Discharge and the Sex Pistols to say where it stopped being heavy metal and started becoming punk," Ulrich says. "We were turned on by the energy and attitude of punk, but we were also into the craft of songwriting and playing our instruments well."

Metallica's forthcoming double-album, *Garage Inc.*, is in part a celebration of an even earlier era in the group's development, when their set would routinely incorporate cover versions of their favourite artists' songs.

It features every cover version the band has ever released (16 in all), together with 11 hastily assembled new recordings of songs previously committed to disc by other artists. Included are several numbers by Motörhead and Diamond Head (the two key influences on Metallica), along with songs from such varied sources as Budgie, Discharge, Black Sabbath, Killing Joke, Lynyrd Skynyrd, the Anti-Nowhere League, Blue Oyster Cult, Thin Lizzy, Bob Seger, Nick Cave and Queen.

A high percentage of the songs are by English acts, a reflection of Ulrich's and Hetfield's early fascination with the so-called New Wave Of British Heavy Metal. This hectic and short-lived scene, which blossomed at the turn of the 1980s, is described by David Fricke in his impressively researched liner notes to *Garage Inc.* as "a fan-driven backlash to the platinum-rock aristocracy and the hokey grandeur of arena-show culture."

But aren't Metallica in 1998 as much a part of the "platinum-rock aristocracy" as any of the bands they once railed against? "I wouldn't deny that or try to talk my way out of it," Ulrich says, somewhat haltingly. "But we've always kept the creative side as pure as we can. We follow our creative instincts wherever they take us, and I feel as if this record definitely marks the end of a chap-



Yes, it is Metallica's Lars Ulrich proving as adept with china as he is with his twin bass drums

ter. The process is due for a shake-up."

Having worked together for 17 years, Ulrich and Hetfield both became fathers for the first time within seven weeks of each other this summer and, while he claims that fatherhood hasn't affected his thinking about the band as yet, Ulrich seems to be in a mood for reassessing his priorities. "The touring thing is becoming more like a chore and

sometimes I get very depressed just thinking about being on the road for long periods of time. And, as time goes by, playing the drums is less and less interesting to me. I have a drumkit set up at my house and I have to force myself to go in there sometimes."

So are Metallica the last great Monsters Of Rock? "Probably," Ulrich says. "Is that evasive enough? To be honest, it's hard for me to take a passionate stand one way or the other."

Garage Inc is released by Vertigo/Mercury on Nov 23

CHRIS PARKER

Advertisement for the movie 'AMZ' (Amazing). It features a large graphic of the letters 'AMZ' with a character climbing them. Text includes: 'The most inventive and dazzling movie of the year', 'brehtaking', 'terrifically funny and sophisticated', 'A brilliant work of genius... fabulously funny', 'Now showing at cinemas across the country'. Credits include: 'DREAMWORKS PICTURES and PDI present "AMZ"', 'STORY BY GREGORY WILLIAMS AND JOHN POWELL', 'DIRECTED BY PENNEY FINKELMAN COX, SANDRA RABINS, CARL ROSENDAHL', 'PRODUCED BY LEWIS ARON WARDNER, PATTY WOOTTON', 'CASTING BY PHILIP MARWELL, TIM JOHNSON'. Logos for PDI, DreamWorks, and other partners are at the bottom.

Big, big country

LIVE GIG

The money-making juggernaut that is the Garth Brooks entertainment phenomenon last made a passing stop on mainland Britain around 1994, when the best-selling recording artist of the 1990s played to a Wembley Arena crowd that wore its cowboy hats with pride.

Then the juggernaut roared off again, and Brooks went about the business of amassing his almost unbelievable US album sales of 82 million. As Brooks prepares for next Monday's release of his *Double Live* album, his British fans seem to have been written out of the spectacular equation. But his Irish followers are in the thick of it, and glorying in the compliment.

On Wednesday evening at the Kings Hall Brooks played the first of the five Belfast shows with which he is concluding a tour that has thrown concert history into the statistical blender. Over a 32-month period, he has played 347 shows in 99 cities to five million people.

But if the statistics suggest that Brooks has become a one-man industry, that is to underplay his primary talent as an unparalleled communicator.

PAUL SEXTON

Advertisement for Linda McCartney's new single 'Wide Prairie'. It features a black and white portrait of Linda McCartney. Text includes: 'Linda McCartney', 'New Single', 'Wide Prairie', 'cd, mc and limited edition 7" picture disc. Out now.', 'PAUL SEXTON'.

Large advertisement for SkyDigital. Text: 'Only SkyDigital can give you more for less'. Below this is a paragraph of text: 'SkyDigital has the widest choice of channels available. Whatever price you pay for a package, you'll get more channels with SkyDigital than with any other digital TV service. And we also offer you the lowest subscription entry price. Channel packages start from only £6.99 to £29.99 a month and you can change your package at any time with a simple phone call and at no extra charge. To experience SkyDigital visit your nearest SkyDigital retailer for a simple demonstration, see www.skydigital.co.uk or call now for more information on 0870 240 2000 ref. ME10'. At the bottom right is the SkyDigital logo and the slogan 'It's what your television's been crying out for'.

Small text at the bottom of the page: 'Digital satellite system required to watch SkyDigital services. Different rates and terms apply to pubs, clubs and other non domestic customers. Sky Box Office movies and events are not included within the subscription and must be paid for separately. Minimum subscription period is 12 months.'

مكتبة من الأصيل

Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page. It includes the text 'THE TIMES POP ALBUMS', 'Age', and 'EXCLUSIVE OFF'. There is a small image of a CD or album cover at the bottom.

LIVE GIG
Garth Brooks
Hands of gold

BRAD MEHLDAU
Singer: The Art of the Trio Vol. 3
Warner Bros. 9362-47014
THOSE unable to get to the American pianist's solo performance tomorrow at the Purcell Room might console themselves with the third of his Art of the Trio recordings, featuring pianist Larry Greenbaum and drummer Jorge Roeder.

JAZZ ALBUMS
To give about him, the multi-faceted improviser from New York, standards with his own unique twists, creating a new sound, a new building, medicine in a glass, packed with the most original and controlled energy. This album can be compared to his already classic work.

THE REMOTE VENTURE
The album is a collection of songs that are not only interesting but also very original. It's a great listen for anyone who enjoys a good mix of styles.

POP ALBUMS
Jewel sparkles with Spirit

ARTS
A gem, plain and simple

NEW POP ALBUMS

JEWEL
Spirit
(Atlantic 7567-82950 £14.99)
THERE are moments when listening to *Spirit*, the follow-up to Jewel's ten million-selling debut, *Pieces of You*, that you realise where everyone else has been going wrong.

Recent albums by Alanis Morissette, Tori Amos, Madonna and even Joni Mitchell have made heavy work of the vogue for turning self-analysis into song. But the 24-year-old Alaskan star converts her most personal feelings into words and music of much greater emotional resonance than her singer-songwriter confreres simply by having the good sense to keep her material focused on the basics. *What's Simple is True* — a pretty, folk-based tune with a lyric that speaks in a universal language — could well be the album's manifesto.

There is, too, the engaging sense of an artist who is prepared to seek solutions to the worries of her world instead of merely cataloguing them. The religious undercurrents of songs such as *Hands*, *Innocence Maintained* and *Life Uncommon* will not be to everyone's liking. "To be forgiven we must first believe in sin," she sternly notes. But her constant cry of optimism in the face of adversity is a welcome antidote to the spiritual malaise that nowadays seems to be the norm.

Quite apart from the purity and depth of Jewel's vision, though, *Spirit* is about the pleasure of hearing an unadorned, bell-like voice in the service of good songs.

SEAL
Human Being
(Warner Bros. 9362-46828 £14.99)
YOU wouldn't guess it to judge from his media profile here, but Seal's last album sold five million copies.

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the *Times Music Shop* on 0345 023498

700,000 of them in Britain. He was, however, sidelined by Britpop and has now chosen to sign direct to his record label in America, where he has prospered for years.

Ironically, though, Seal's third album, *Human Being*, marks something of a return to the cosmopolitan street-level influences acquired during his time spent growing up in London. Partly, one suspects, this is a result of the artist clawing back a measure of control from his longstanding producer, Trevor Horn. Whereas Horn has tended to over-egg the production, numbers such as *Latest Craze*, with its twitchy electro-funk rhythm track, and the moody *State of Grace*, a slow, trip-hop-type shuffle, are given a more rootsy, less Baroque treatment than in the past.

Relieved of some of the clutter, Seal's husky voice has room to stretch and breathe, marvellously so on *Lost My Faith*, and goes sailing into a seriously haunted upper register during the mysterious *Still Love Remains*.

WHITNEY HOUSTON
My Love is Your Love
(Arista 07822 19037 £14.99)
"WHITNEY, like you've never heard her before!" proclaims the sticker on *My Love is Your Love*, the first full-length, non-soundtrack album from the soul diva in eight years.

And it is indeed an eye-opening set of tough, modern R&B songs which, for the most part, sound quite unlike the soggy power ballads for which she is best known. Partly this is due to Houston's less dewy-eyed approach to life in general, but mostly it is thanks to her and executive producer Clive Davis's judicious choice of producers and writers, including such happening figures as Missy Elliott, Faith Evans, Wyclef Jean and the super-talented 19-year-old writer/producer Rodney Jerkins.

Too bad then that the first single is *When You Believe*, an untypically simple-minded duet with Mariah Carey, which sends out all the wrong signals.



On *Spirit*, Jewel shows the likes of Alanis, Tori, Madonna and Joni how to bare your soul and retain your credibility

E-17
Resurrection
(Telstar TCD3015 £12.99)
IN ATTEMPTING to make the transition from boy band pin-ups to credible, grown-up artists, the former East 17 have made an album of surprisingly plausible R&B songs interspersed with sultry soul ballads.

Brian Harvey has a supple voice, and over the course of 13

numbers the three lads pull it off more often than not. The one serious shortcoming remains their lyrics which, apart from some cheeky incursions into R. Kelly territory ("Bethcha can't stop thinking 'bout my love rock") generally express little beyond the blandest and most predictable of romantic sentiments.

DAVID SINCLAIR

POP OPINION
Who really has the power?

Geri and the pacemakers

Former Spice Girls — in fact, all pop stars — just don't figure among the nation's movers and shakers

Did anyone see that terrifying list of wrongness, *The Power 300*, published in *The Observer*, which purported to be a definitive list of who wields the real power in Britain as we slouch towards the millennium? According to the list, the former Spice Girl Geri Halliwell is the 11th most powerful person in Britain. Actually, Geri must be feeling her *Girl Power* is waning, compared with Noel Gallagher who — at No 49 — is deemed to be more important than the Pope.

Other questionable power-rankings came in the form of Richard Ashcroft, lead singer of the Verve, at No 273, and George Michael, lead singer of George Michael, at 210. The former is a greasy-haired boy with limbs like a knotted piece of string, and the latter wields so much power that when he attempted to regain the copyright of his own songs, he was beaten in court by Sony Records (the chairman of which pops up at a mere 272).

Of course, these lists are compiled with a populist spin. At the beginning of their deliberations, the *Power 300* panel discounted all members of the military, regulators and quango heads, ostensibly to reveal those with "serious purchase on the levers of power", but in reality, one suspects, to replace endless pictures of fat girthy sixties something Oxbridge with people we actually recognise. The other factor is the make-up of the *Power 300* panel itself. While Lord Hattersley and the chairman of Barclays Bank took care of the political and financial worlds, the panel member in charge of popular culture was Kate Thornton, who presents *Top of the Pops* every third week. Of course, I may have

underestimated the amount of pop knowledge possessed by someone who stands around shouting, "And now, *Cher!*". Actually, no I haven't — the woman knows absolutely knock-all.

The amount of power wielded by pop icons has always been hysterically miscalculated. It's generally supposed that anyone who can persuade 20 million people to buy their album — as is the case with Noel Gallagher — is on a par with the chairman of Marks & Spencer (No 18), responsible for a cardy that sells a similar amount. But it ain't so — M&S works out what the market wants, designs by top-quality committees, expensively think-tanks until the wee small hours and then markets with astonishing precision. Musicians, on the other hand, get drunk and fall into a song. Selling shed-loads of your "accident" does not mark you out as a financial visionary; in the best possible sense, musicians don't know what they're doing.

No, the people who really have their hands on the levers of power are, as always, public school-educated white men in their fifties and sixties, who prove their power daily by not having to tour Austria, sing "Happy Birthday" to Prince Charles, or have kids shout "Your last album was knacker!" at them in the street.

Those who seek to "elevate" artists by ascribing power to them cripple the very thing that makes artists artists: they do it because it is beautiful, not because it is clever or right or important. If they start chasing songs in order to become powerful, we're all going to hell in a handcart.



CAITLIN MORAN

TOP 10 ALBUMS

- 1 (2) *The Best of 1980-1990 & B-Sides* — U2 (Island)
- 2 (3) *The Waterplan* — Oasis (Creation)
- 3 (1) *Ladies & Gentlemen — The Best of* — George Michael (Epic)
- 4 (13) *The Best of* — M People (M People)
- 5 (4) *I've Been Expecting You* — Robbie Williams (Columbia)
- 6 (5) *Supposed Former Infatuation Junkie* — Alanis Morissette (Maverick)
- 7 (6) *Quesada* — Beautiful South (Go! Disc/Mercury)
- 8 (14) *Talk on Corners* — Corne (Adnango)
- 9 (7) *Miles* — Phil Collins (Mercury)
- 10 (8) *The Star and Whisker* — LadySmith Black Menbaaz (Polygram TV)

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LISTINGS

Royal Ballet in Belfast

ARTS

MUSIC
Dame Kiri in fitful form

RECOMMENDED THIS WEEKEND

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Merrit Hargiss

LONDON

SOUTH BANK MUSEUM: A heady blend of jazz and classical is on offer here this weekend. Tomorrow (Festival Hall 7.30pm) Christoph von Dohnanyi conducts a concert performance by the Philharmonia Orchestra of Alban Berg's Expressions open Wednesday.

SHANG-HAI-LAND: Three 40-year-old girls aim to revive their lustful school-days at a Glam Rock revival. Mia Bradley directs a new play by the playwright with his band Human Chain for the first date of a UK tour.

STRAVINSKY STAGE WORKS: Michael Tilson Thomas conducts the London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in the concluding concert of this milestone. On the programme are The Fire of Spring and his 'trio-drama' for chorus, speaker and orchestra, Perspectives.

ST CECILIA: This week-long international festival of music opera with a concert by the Norwegian ensemble Fjord Musicals playing music by Bach and Handel.

ELSEWHERE: BELFAST: The Royal Ballet makes its first over-visit here with a season featuring two excellent new pieces: Kenneth MacMillan's sumpitous three-acter Maron followed by a triple bill of works by Frederick Ashton.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

- CRIMES OF THE HEART: Amanda Bynes plays one of the three sisters in Beth Henning's Pulitzer Prize-winning family drama, revived by David Gilmore. King's Head (0171-226 1818).
LOVE UPON THE THRONE: The National Theatre of Brent takes us through the courtship of Cleopatra and Octavian in a comedy and touching. Comedy (0171-287 1727).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Geoff Brown's choice of the latest movies

- BLADE (18): Extravagant, jumbled horror fantasy. Fun for a time, with Wesley Snipes as the vampire-hunting action hero from the pages of Marvel Comics. With Stephen D'Eather. Director: Stephen Norrington.
THE ODD COUPLE II (15): Meticulously and unnecessarily sequel, with Jack Lemmon and Jack Larriman as the mismatched pair reunited for a family wedding.

Mum's the sad word

If the exiled Soho Theatre can offer an evening as nourishing as this after seven days' rehearsal, my critical stomach feels decidedly hungry for next autumn, when it plans to move into its new home in Dean Street and hire its work more thoroughly than is possible when it is staging five plays in just four weeks.



Baby minders: Diana Quick (Mrs Adams) and Eleanor Bron (the matron) star in Amanda Whittington's touching play

rest of an excellent cast are off making trillion-dollar movies or performing lead roles for the RSC, the play should not be allowed to become another forgotten fringe statistic.

these girls to take their babies into the world outside, the result would most likely be estrangement and disaster. "Where will you go?" she repeats. "How will you live? There is no other way."

THEATRE

CRIMES OF THE HEART

AMANDA BYNES plays one of the three sisters in Beth Henning's Pulitzer Prize-winning family drama, revived by David Gilmore.

THE TAMING OF THE SHREW

DIANA QUICK (Mrs Adams) and ELEANOR BRON (the matron) star in Amanda Whittington's touching play

LOVE UPON THE THRONE

THE NATIONAL THEATRE OF BRENT takes us through the courtship of Cleopatra and Octavian in a comedy and touching.

THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL

DANIEL DORMAN'S highly successful production, set backstage in front of a royal pageant.

SMILEY BARBARA

ROBERTO URSINO'S homage to La Stronchi and New Yorker specialist Steven Berkoff, who looks and sounds remarkably like the famous lady.

THE INVENTION OF LOVE

JOHN MCDONALD'S new one-man show brings a sharp eye and a cutting tongue to the current scene.

GUIDING STAR

JOHANN HENRY'S hilarious, farcical play, premiered in Liverpool, comes to the National.

THE MOUNTAIN KING

THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE OF CHESHIRE, clearly happy to have some engagements in these, their darkest days, showed off when Robin Stapleton in Chabrier's Espana, inappropriately placed after the Strauss songs.

SMOKE SCREEN

TINA MALONE as the neighbour with true grief

PAIN IN SHORT BURSTS

THE gay teenager who outs himself is a regular character in Jonathan Harvey's plays. Most famously in Beautiful Thing, and here he is again in this latest piece, directed by Gemma Bodinetz.

ART GALLERIES

END OF LEASE SALE OF MOD. ART: ART 1-10 November. Michael Parish Gallery, 11 McCormack St, SW1 2NS 8444

EXHIBITIONS

Recent Paintings by Nicola Marborough until 27th November. Hahn 47, Albemarle Street, London W1X 3DF 0171 481 9188

CLASSICAL CONCERTS

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Arias and grazes

Kiri Te Kanawa can fill the Albert Hall and even provide a little revenue for the ticket tots. But she and her advisers still appear to be struggling to devise the right sort of concert programme for her voice at this stage in her career.

that memories of her Countess in Capriccio at Glyndebourne last summer started flowing back. This beginning was not helped by the hall's maff lighting, switching colour for no good reason and often very bad ones.

The second half was distinctly West End. Even with microphones sprouting around the hall Te Kanawa was in fitful form as a musical comedy star.

The Royal Opera House orchestra, clearly happy to have some engagements in these, their darkest days, showed off when Robin Stapleton in Chabrier's Espana, inappropriately placed after the Strauss songs.

Pain in short bursts

THE gay teenager who outs himself is a regular character in Jonathan Harvey's plays. Most famously in Beautiful Thing, and here he is again in this latest piece, directed by Gemma Bodinetz.

Harvey's writing can be brave, shrewd and funny, but the structure he gives his plays belongs to television soaps, where short scenes in different settings, home, yard, beach, boat, forest, railway cutting) are cut off just as somebody is about to reveal a piece of news, deliver an ultimatum, attend a

RECITAL

MARILYN KINGWILL

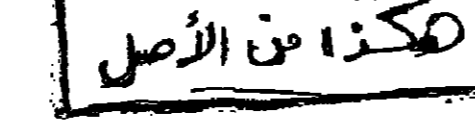
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Kiri Te Kanawa... Arias and grazes... Kiri Te Kanawa...

RECITAL Kiri Te Kanawa... Albert Hall

Machine play... Kiri Te Kanawa... Albert Hall

The safest solution is to step out of the closet

The issue of MPs and their sexuality over the past few weeks has led to a vast outpouring of humbug that tells us a lot about the state of society and the workings of the media.

Not for the first time some of the purest humbug has come from the BBC in the form of a memo that reads: "Under no circumstances whatsoever should the allegations about Peter Mandelson's private life be repeated or referred to in any broadcast."



Raymond Stoddy

Guests invited by a local BBC radio station this week to discuss the press, privacy and gay MPs were told by the producer that the Trade and Industry Secretary should not be mentioned by name.

homosexuality is that the public mood is still in transition and probably varies by generation. On the whole the public is becoming more tolerant and accepting.

We are heading for a situation where politicians can be open about themselves without suffering at the polls, and the sooner that happens the better for all concerned.

A role model is Chris Smith, the Secretary for Culture, Media and Sport, who has been, at least in recent years, open about being gay.

Blairs' friend wooed to keep out privatisers

CHANNEL 4 is lobbying hard for Barry Cox, former LWT millionaire director, to be its deputy chairman when Bert Hardy steps down in December.

FT readers swing to Labour

The nation's intellectual elite is abandoning the Tories, says Robert M. Worcester

FINANCIAL TIMES THURSDAY NOVEMBER 12 1998. Includes headlines like 'US boosts Gulf force as pressure grows over strike' and 'Iraq deputy PM 'on secret arms group''.

Britain's financial and intellectual leadership has swung sharply behind the Blair Government since it took office 18 months ago, according to a MORI analysis carried out for The Times.

MORI's aggregate of seven voting intention polls during the third quarter of this year (including the three monthly polls for The Times) provides large enough sample sizes to analyse the political affiliations of readers of most national newspapers, and to track them over time, in this case since the election.

Going Tony Blair's way: more and more readers of the quality press have declared themselves potential Labour voters since the election. Tory lead, 42 per cent to 28 per cent as noted above, but in addition the Lib Dems were on 25 per cent last year and now have fallen to 15 per cent.

any likelihood of further swing is hit by a law of diminishing returns. The two main Scottish Sunday tabloids, The Sunday Mail and Sunday Post, also swung 3 per cent and 3.5 per cent respectively.

VOTING INTENTION BY READERSHIP. Table with columns for Newspaper Readership, 1997, 1998, Change, and Swing.

NOW it's MacKenzie & Son. No sooner had Kelvin taken over as the chairman, chief executive and 30 per cent shareholder of Talk Radio than he made his son, Ashley, advertising sales controller.



DANNY BAKER is expected to be named next week as Talk Radio's new breakfast show host, the slot which Kirsty Young vacated as soon as the takeover talks began last June.

Baker, with Danny Kelly, anchors Saturday's sports commentary for Talk but is roundly beaten by David Mellor on Radio 5 Live in the evening.

THE Advertising Effectiveness Awards, organised by the Institution of Practitioners in Advertising, was an odd affair. Agencies are so keen to be taken seriously by business that despite loads of well-researched campaigns, no adverts were shown at the event.

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media times

A party? When we hit Im

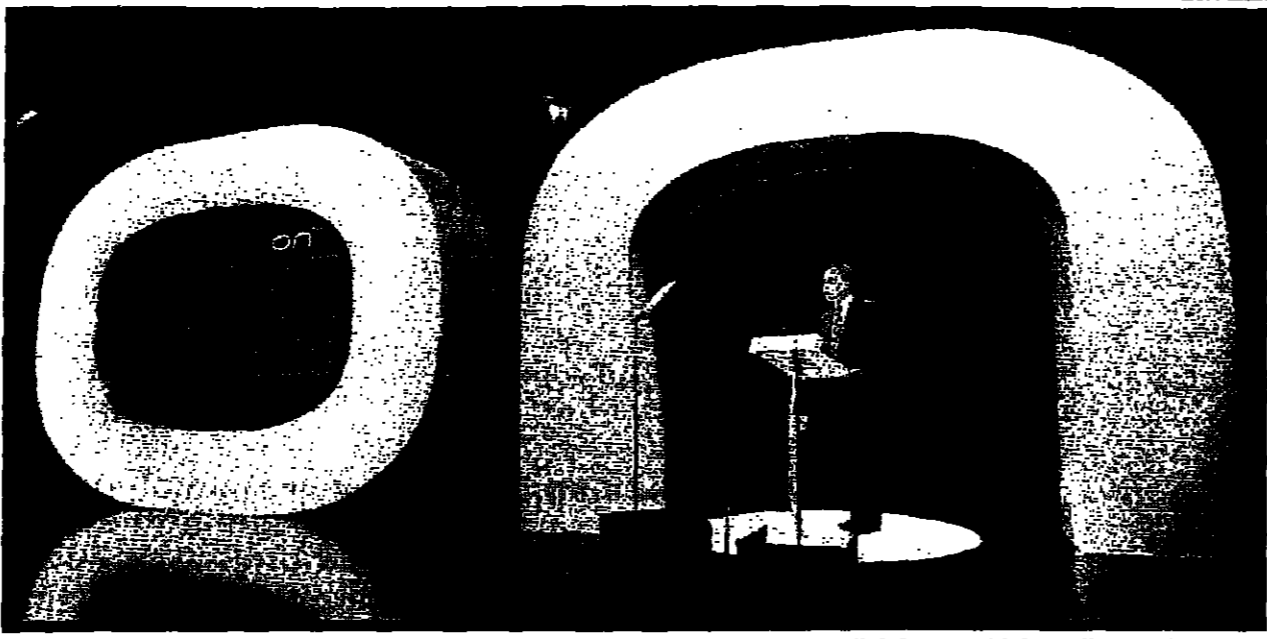
The head of the first digital terrestrial TV service plans to keep the launch low-key. **Raymond Snoddy reports**

When SkyDigital launched its 140-channel service on October 1, a huge party was held in the shell of Battersea Power Station, within sight of Sky's rival, ONdigital.

When the latter launches the world's first digital terrestrial television service on Sunday, it will mark the event in a most unusual way — there will be no party and the various broadcasters that will together offer 30 channels of digital terrestrial will carry out their own on-screen launches. "This is work as usual. I've told staff there will be a party when we sign one million subscribers," says Stephen Grabiner, the head of ONdigital, the main commercial digital terrestrial player, which has put together a 15-channel service.

To provide a visual memory, or at least a photocall, of the digital terrestrial switch-on, Ulrika Jonsson, the television personality, will light up the Crystal Palace transmitter, a sight that should be seen all over London. One reason for the low-key approach is that few people will be able to see the launch-day programmes, as the digital decoders do not go on sale until tomorrow.

Grabiner, the former managing director of *The Daily Telegraph* who went on to run the newspaper end of United News and Media, concedes that the launch schedule for ONdigital has been tight. "One of the first things I did when I came in was to say we



ONdigital's Stephen Grabiner: "We are going to be for the people who want slightly more high-quality television"

would launch in November. Everyone thought I was a lunatic. It was only 11 months from when we got our licence but one by one we've knocked down all the obstacles," says Grabiner.

He refuses to set any targets, other than to try to reach the one million figure — and the party — as soon as possible. Although digital terrestrial cannot offer as many channels as satellite or digital cable, which launches next year, it can offer extra choice through the existing TV aerial.

"We are delivering the best channels in the simplest way," says Grabiner, adding that "Middle England" does not want dozens of channels but ten or so good-quality ones. ONdigital subscribers will have access to eight "free" channels in digital, plus a much faster, more sophisticated version of Teletext, the five

terrestrial channels and ITV 2 — which starts up next month and will not be available on satellite — and two new channels from the BBC, News24 and BBC Choice.

Viewers who opt for only the "free" channels will have to pay the full price of the decoder, almost £400, rather than the subsidised £199 offer.

For their first three months, ONdigital subscribers will receive all the "primary" channels for £7.99 a month, channels such as UK Gold, UK Horizons, Sky One, Eurosport, Granada Plus, Carlton Cinema and the new Cartoon Network. Subscribers will then be able to choose their six favourite channels for £7.99. Viewers will pay extra for premium channels such as Sky Sports, including Premier League football (News International, the owner of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake in

BSkyB) and the FilmFour subscription channels.

"We are not trying to chase the 30 per cent who are already signed up (to multichannel television), Grabiner says. "All of our marketing is aimed at mainstream TV viewers who want a bit more decent TV: they want ITV and the BBC and they'll probably buy a sport or movie package."

He believes that the competitive world of national newspapers, and the idea that people have a choice and that you have to satisfy the market, has honed his skills. ONdigital estimates that 70 per cent of the country will be able to receive the service at launch, rising to 90 per cent by the end of next year.

But even when digital terrestrial is available, not everyone will be able to receive the entire service. A report published yesterday by Claritas, the market research group, suggested that only 43 per cent of UK households will be able to receive the full service. The study — based on data supplied by the Independent Tele-

'Middle England does not want dozens of channels'

Mopping up the blood at M&S

MARKS & SPENCER has been regarded, long and deservedly, as a model company. So seeing a boardroom row in M&S, as one journalist put it this week, is like seeing Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother hit someone with her handbag.

What we have witnessed recently is a rare display of inelegance from the company, and a reminder that even the best can look like children in the playground at times of pressure. It is also the type of affair instantly described as a PR issue. Well, plainly that is so since the world has been reading about it.

and taking another elsewhere.

So, imagine that a gardener who departed to tend his flowers in early August is now back in action. When he left, the FTSE 100 was around 5,400. Today it is again around 5,400. Seemingly, nothing much has happened (assuming that he has read nothing between times about liquidity crunches, market crashes and the halving of some share prices). But, as this column argued last month, the fundamentals always cut through — and as *The Daily Telegraph* wrote last Saturday, "panicking can damage your wealth".

projects have codenames — which is fine, except when you find that you are working on three projects that have independently been given the same codename.

And if you do have a deal party list, the security can be blown when, as in the case of Nestlé's acquisition of Rowntree's, it was headed, "Project X, 1 Nestlé Avenue".



■ ROADSHOWS are an intrinsic part of flotations and other capital-raising exercises. But they can involve a great deal of travel and a punishing schedule of presentations, meetings, breakfasts, lunches and dinners. Well-organised, and with a properly planned presentation, they work extremely well, and it is possible to make the constant travel relatively painless. The real killer is boredom.

The presentation has to be carefully scripted and legally verified, and departure from publicly disclosed information is not on. After the twentieth presentation, the element of fun has completely disappeared — which is why diversions are a welcome temptation on the road.

On one recent venture, four-inch toy Penguins became the roadshow mascot, which is why the US investor, on the other end of the telephone during a roadshow conference call, was puzzled to hear, in the middle of the answer to his question: "My finance director is playing with his Penguin". Apparently he still bought into the offer.

■ REGULATION is in the air. Financial PR is not regulated, yet it is a serious business. It is a profession that deals with core strategic advice and market-sensitive communications, and is frequently made a scapegoat for leaks. Everyone else is regulated. We should be, too — and thus benefit from our increased status, which naturally clients will pay more for.

However, debate on the subject could give the impression that we in financial PR do not already have to abide by rules. In fact we are bound by the Stock Exchange Yellow Book, the Takeover Panel Blue Book — and indeed, by common sense.

■ SECURITY is often central to PR. So confidential

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Have viewers had enough of the inside story
 THE TIMES
 P&G

Have viewers had enough of the insides story?

The human body hits our screens again. Anjana Ahuja reports

I think I am suffering from human body fact fatigue. Although I still giggle childishly at the revelation that my rotund neighbour will have sex 2,580 times during his lifetime, interest is waning in the 600 miles of hair that I will grow during mine. Thanks to *The Human Body*, the supposedly definitive BBC documentary series about how bodies work, I have grown weary of programmes that promise to bring me similar trivia accompanied by an inside view of my insides.

That is why Channel 4's series about the human body, which began last night, deserves to be an almighty flop. Not only does *Body Story* bear a remarkably similar name to its predecessor, but it, too, promises to shine a hitherto unshone light, with lashings of super-duper animation, on my innards. Worse, it has been made on a fraction of the million-pound budget of its rival, does not come accompanied by acres of publicity (*The Human Body* screened the first death on British television, and showed naked teenagers) and lacks a frontman with the status of the fertility supreme Lord Winston. In fact, it has no presenter at all. And the documentaries are billed as docu-dramas. What was the channel thinking of?

"We did try to think of other names, such as *The Voyage Within* or *Inside Story*, but this is what we ended up with," admits Sara Ramsden, who commissioned the series knowing that the BBC project was under way. "In an ideal world the two series would not have been scheduled so closely. But they are quite different."

Indeed, although many potential viewers may never realise it, while *The Human Body* followed the usual documentary format, *Body Story* uses actors to play out a storyline, with the drama interrupted to show animations of what goes on inside a character's body. And where *The Human Body* was self-consciously grandiose, *Body Story* is refreshingly modest (each of the six episodes is only 24 minutes long).

The lower budget probably meant that animation was used sparingly, to great effect. The acting was so engaging — and the narrative so strong — that an on-screen presenter would have been intrusive. Just the right amount of science was delivered by an excellent script and a plain voiceover. My fear that the series would end up being an appalling blend of *Toy Story*, *Lakers* and *999* was unjustified. My only reservation is that viewers may not know what is real and what is animation.

The first instalment, *Under Pressure*, was as gripping as anything. *Casualty* offers, though it occasionally had the feel of a public health warning. Our role model for the day was John, a 45-year-old construction foreman who eats burgers and fizzy drinks and enjoys the odd cigarette. Interspersed sequences of animation show cholesterol accumulating in his arteries, which make it harder for blood cells to circulate. Then he joins in a game of football. To keep going he needs more oxygen, so the heart — depicted in dramatic detail — pumps faster. Only a callous viewer wouldn't pray for John to take a rest.

Basic Instinct, to be screened in two weeks time, contrasts the higher, evolved brain that controls our everyday behaviour with the animal instincts that push us to eat and reproduce. It's more in the *This Life* vein. Greg and Laura, two colleagues who fancy each other, finally get it together at a friend's party, where their snog is interrupted.

With each twist in the plot we are shown a picture of Greg's increasingly marinated brain.

There is no way that *Body Story* can be accused of that. Ramsden says: "I don't think people's appetite for this stuff is waning. I hope she is right."



With each twist in the plot we are shown a picture of Greg's increasingly marinated brain

Ramsden got what she wanted: "We didn't want to be over-ambitious. We wanted it to be fresh, innovative and intriguing. We wanted people to get to grips with the minutiae of what goes on in their bodies without it feeling like a school programme." She says the BBC's position as a "broadcaster of record" means its documentaries end up "a bit staid".

There is no way that *Body Story* can be accused of that. Ramsden says: "I don't think people's appetite for this stuff is waning. I hope she is right."

● *Body Story*, 9pm, Thursdays on Channel 4

Kurdish TV station faces ban for bias

The official regulator of all commercial television broadcasts in Britain is this week likely to issue a harsh ruling over complaints against a Kurdish-language satellite television station that Turkey calls a mouthpiece for terrorist propaganda.

The ruling by the Independent Television Commission is of enormous significance, not only for Britain's relations with Turkey but for the future of foreign-language broadcasters using Britain as a base.

The ITC is to rule on broadcasts by Med TV, which has been warned about the content of its news and current affairs programmes four times. In January it was fined £90,000 for "serious breaches" of the ITC programme code.

The main complaint is that the station, broadcasting to Kurds in Europe, Turkey and the Middle East, is not impartial but has put out propaganda on behalf of the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), a Marxist guerrilla group fighting the Turkish Army in southeast Turkey.

The ITC accused Med TV of broadcasting material that lacked balance and impartiality, and appeared to be directed only to PKK sympathisers.

Turkey, which has repeatedly demanded that Britain close down the station, also claims that the station has broadcast incitements to PKK terrorists to attack or kidnap Western tourists in Turkey.

After the third complaint this year, the station was given a "final warning". Since then, the ITC says, it has received further complaints, which were considered in September. If these are upheld this week, the station, set up four years ago, could have its licence revoked and be banned from broadcasting in Britain.

A legal spokesman for Med TV said that the station had not been notified of the results of the ITC September meeting.

Labour opposes any ban on advocating terrorism

The ITC ruling will be of great significance to foreign broadcasts, says Michael Binyon.

The station was therefore not expected to have its licence cancelled or revoked.

The Government has long been embarrassed by Med TV, and British foreign ministers visiting Ankara have been strongly attacked for allowing it to broadcast. The Conservative Government proposed new laws that would outlaw the advocacy of terrorism, as well as conspiracy by exiles in Britain to commit terrorism abroad.

Labour, however, opposes any ban on advocating terrorism, saying that this could inhibit legitimate calls for opposition to dictatorship and tyranny.

Med TV strongly denies any advocacy of terrorism, although it has repeatedly demanded that Britain close down the station, also claims that the station has broadcast incitements to PKK terrorists to attack or kidnap Western tourists in Turkey.

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cial and cultural life of a remote area of northern Iraq/Kurdistan. The 40-minute programme consisted entirely of a political rally organised by the PKK. No context was supplied and there was no balancing material.

A further £25,000 penalty was levied "for a news programme on October 9 which included a condemnation, seemingly endorsed by Med TV, of a list of terrorist organisations produced by the United States Government, and which accused that country of branding those who opposed existing orders as terrorists and concluded that the list was intended to cover up (America's) terrorist activities."

A further formal warning was given in March over what the ITC called "incitement to crime". This related to an interview with a commander of the military wing of the PKK. The commission said that the station had not taken "all reasonable measures to ensure that such a programme is unlikely to incite or encourage crime."

As Britain is an increasingly attractive centre for broadcasters trying to get around censorship or restrictions in their native countries, the precedent is important. London has established a reputation as a world media centre. The fact that the Government does not directly censor or control output is vital to this reputation. But Med TV raises the question of how far pressure groups can go in using the airwaves to further their cause.

Med TV complains that it is a victim of harassment. It said last month that its programmes, beamed via the Orion satellite, had been jammed by Turkey, which constituted "terrorist sabotage".

A spokesman said that it was impossible to avoid mentioning the PKK when discussing Kurdish affairs, just as broadcasts on the Palestinians often referred to the Palestine Liberation Organisation. "Turkey's point is that, if you are not an assimilated Kurd, you are a PKK terrorist," he said.

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 13 1998

Up the t M&S

projects have codenames. Which is fine, except when you find that you are watching on three projects that have independently been given the same codename. And if you do have a deal with where, as in the case of Nestlé's acquisition of Roper, it was headed "Fruity".

PROJECTS are also named. But they can involve a great deal of travel and a punishing schedule of press conferences, meetings, briefings, and dinners. Properly planned, work, extremely well, and it's possible to make them seem trivially painless. The real killer is time.

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Perhaps spine-tingling isn't the right word to describe the prospect of working on brands ranging from Ariel to Fairy, Pantene to Pampers. Rather, the dollar signs will have gone up in front of their eyes because P&G is, arguably, the best-paying, most committed big advertiser.

Well-tressed: P&G's Pantene

Until now, agencies that held competitive accounts (Colgate Palmolive, Unilever, Henkel), even in different product categories, could not work on P&G business. This week P&G said that it would open its doors to agencies other than its big four: Grey, Saatchi & Saatchi, Leo Burnett and DMB & B.

I doubt that we will see P&G hiring J Walter Thompson, which works on Unilever's Persil, to handle Ariel, but it may turn to smaller creative agencies to produce more inventive advertising on prob-

lem local brands. Look at recent work for Lynx, Bachelors Super Noodles and Birds Eye for an industry precedent.

P&G has also called agencies to its Cincinnati world headquarters to outline its new payment policy. Previously fixed at a 15 per cent commission rate, this is to be reduced by upwards of one percentage point and an element of fee-based remuneration is to be introduced. If agencies are paid purely on commission, they make more money the higher the media spend. Fees allow agencies to offer more "honest" advice. The only surprise being how long it has taken P&G to wake up to this fact.

IPC PARTWORK publishers aside, magazine houses rarely take advertising seriously. TV campaigns, in particular, have been deemed relatively expensive for the returns they might bring.

The larger publishers have too many brands to be able to afford to support each consistently. Advertising has been used as a short-term, tactical weapon not a long-term branding tool.

But over the past year there have been big campaigns behind Red and FHM from Emap. Now, conscious of the success of the Red launch in particular, other publishers are following suit. This week IPC pledged to spend £25 million next year on marketing its brands. It has already begun a campaign for TV Times. And with Loaded and the new-look NME and Melody Maker, it is looking for a new ad agency. Hello! is also to seek a full-time agency partner for the first time — further proof that the celebrity tide has indeed been ranted by its rival OK!

There is no reason why, with smart media planning and buying, magazine brands should not be able to afford television as long as they stick to pro-



grammes with relevant target audiences (such as FHM advertising in TV Friday).

There is equally no reason why other media, such as posters, should not be used to better effect. If magazine publishers have wasted money in the past, it is because they bought "wallpaper" work that has been neither good nor bad enough to get noticed. The Economist has been the consistently shining example of what can be achieved.

THE Institute of Practitioners in Advertising's Effectiveness Awards, set up 20 years ago, have had a makeover, partly to convince clients that advertising can have an effect not just on consumers, but also on the City and employees.

Campaigns were awarded Michelin-style stars, but there was still a Grand Prix winner. The Health Education Authority's anti-drugs campaign was deemed the most effective of the past two years. The insight behind it was sharp — young people take drugs not because they are pressurised into doing so, but because they choose to. The creative work — bodies with skin stripped away to reveal what drugs do to our insides — was fresh and provocative. But where was the proof that it worked?

The winning paper cited as "evidence" £28 million being diverted from the black economy, saving industry £11 million a year in lost working days and £3 million on drug education. There were also said to be "savings" on the long-term cost of treating people who "might" have had Ecstasy-related depression.

It is this kind of statistical manipulation that gives politicians a bad name. For it to have won over excellent case histories from the likes of Volkswagen and One 2 One was, to be polite, surprising.

Stefano Hatfield is the Editor of Campaign

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES

Save up to 20% at Liberty this Christmas

Today Times readers are invited to do their Christmas shopping at Liberty, Regent Street, London W1 on Sunday, November 22 between noon and 6pm when you can enjoy the following exclusive discounts and special offers:

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SPECIAL EVENTS: Lisa Armstrong, Times fashion editor, will make three fashion presentations at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm. Lisa Grainger, Times Weekend shopping editor's top ten Christmas gift selection will be on show. Jayne Dowle, editor of metro, will be at Liberty between 4pm-5pm to help you to choose Christmas books.

The event is free but if you would like to make a donation to charity, call Great Ormond Street Donation telephone line: 0171-916 5678, or send a cheque, made payable to Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity, to: Great Ormond Street Fundraising Dept, 40-41 Queen Square, London WC1N 3AQ.

TO RECEIVE YOUR INVITATION send a stamped (first-class) sae (110x220mm or larger) to: The Times/Liberty Christmas Shopping Event, Customer Services, Level 4, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9BD. Offers are redeemable with Times invitation only.

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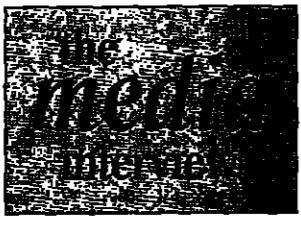
media times

I was active when it mattered

BSkyB's new chairman backed pay TV from the start, says Alan Tillier

The first impression one has of Jérôme Seydoux, 64, is of a relaxed, even self-deprecating French business aristocrat, not an ambitious media tycoon involved across Europe in pay TV and the production and distribution of films — as well as being owner of a French daily newspaper, *Liberation*.

Seydoux is the new chairman of BSkyB, where his 17 per cent stake is second only to that of News International, which owns 40 per cent.



He is the least known of the four media giants seeking to build pan-European media empires based on pay TV. The others are Murdoch, Italy's Silvio Berlusconi and Germany's Leo Kirch. Seydoux ticks off the efforts of those going cross border: Berlusconi in Spain, Murdoch in Germany with Vox, CLT in Germany, France and the Benelux and Canal Plus in ten countries. Although he does not have a direct interest in Canal Plus, the French pay TV channel, he has 20 per cent of CanalSatellite, its digital offshoot. This is losing money but is the leader in France with 1 million subscribers. "It will break even in 2000," says Seydoux. "Sky Digital should be at 1 million subscribers a year from now."

Seydoux shuttles between Paris and London, where he lunches often with Murdoch. This week he was there to outline plans for Pathé's expansion in Europe in pay TV, film financing, distribution and ownership of cinemas. He told investors that Pathé intended to



Euro vision: Jérôme Seydoux, the new chairman of BSkyB, has ambitious plans for his media empire

take advantage of film production possibilities in Britain, where it won a National Lottery film award last year. Pathé Pictures has abandoned the US and will produce 35 films in Britain within six years.

Seydoux was born into the billion-dollar Schlumberger oil equipment dynasty, originally from Alsace. He has two brothers — one of whom runs the rival Gaumont cinema group. Seydoux's personal business interests are estimated by France's *Le Nouvel Economiste* magazine to be from £160 million to more than £360 million. He started in the family's bank and was briefly head of the Schlumberger group before leaving. Seydoux invested in textiles, shipping, an airline, household sponges, newspapers and the \$60 million flop of the remake of the film *Lolita* with Jeremy Irons.

Perhaps his biggest setback was in TV with La Cinq, France's first independent channel in the 1980s, launched with Silvio Berlusconi after Seydoux's friend and golf partner, the late President Mitterrand, opened up French TV. The Right returned to government in 1986 and Seydoux was dispossessed. "La Cinq was put into pieces by Chirac [the French President]," he says. But it gave Seydoux a taste for TV and explains his presence with pay TV in Britain. "People said it would fail like the Channel Tunnel and Euro Disney. We were the ones that succeeded," he says.

Seydoux showed his acumen when he did business with Giancarlo Pirelli, the Italian financier who had sold MGM to the French State bank Crédit Lyonnais, thus setting it on the road to near ruin. Seydoux resisted MGM, but bought Pathé from Pirelli. It enabled him to build an integrated cinema production and distribu-

Carlton upsets Lawrence family

THE parents of the murdered teenager Stephen Lawrence will stop co-operating with a Granada TV reconstruction of the case if a rival ITV programme from Carlton goes ahead.

Broadcast reports that the Lawrence family is upset that the five youths questioned about the murder are to be interviewed in the Carlton documentary, to be aired in January.

Martin Bashir, famous for his BBC *Panorama* interview with Diana, Princess of Wales, is said to have been talking to the five for some months and is likely to be Carlton's presenter. His BBC contract expires this month. The Lawrences have so far worked amicably with Granada, which began shooting this week.

NATIONAL newspaper photographers may be banned from Premier League football grounds tomorrow unless they give the League more control over their pictures, Press Gazette reports.

The League wants to prevent publication of "distorted" pictures of players and officials, such as the notorious image of Graham Taylor as a turnip. The newspapers are resisting any restrictions of the use they make of their own pictures.

HELLO! magazine is under pressure from its rival, OK!, and is looking for a full-time advertising agency for the first time in its ten-year history, Marketing reports.

Although sales of *Hello!* for the first half of this year were well ahead of OK!, by 506,000 to 221,000, it is reported that OK! pulled ahead in September on the strength of a series of Spice Girls exclusives.

GOOD news from Marketing Week. Beer prices are expected to hit an all-time low this Christmas following a summer of poor sales. Discounts on beers bought to take home have started a month earlier than usual, with two-for-one deals being offered by the big names such as Carling, Carlsberg and Heinekken. In the pub and bar trade, where the average quoted price of beer is £250, discounts for long-term supply contracts are as much as £120 a barrel.

LVMH-owned Parfums Givenchy has appointed a new managing director, Gilles Dougoud, to oversee the launch of two new fragrances and a new range of cosmetics to be branded with Alexander McQueen's name. The move is considered to be an attempt by Givenchy to rejuvenate its brand, but without alienating its existing customers.

VIEWERS are losing their taste for feature films on the small screen, according to an analysis in the 50 most popular films on TV in the 12 months ending in September was 8.21 million, against 8.85 million the previous year. On Sky's dedicated movie channels, average viewing from January to August was 25 per cent lower than in 1997.

GOOD to see that Bernard Ingham, the feisty former press officer to Margaret Thatcher, has not lost his blunderbuss touch. In his regular column in PR Week, he declares that the Labour Government "is now bracketed with second-hand car salesmen in the league table of purveyors of credibility."

He adds: "After 18 months of slavery to Labour's spin-doctors, journalists I talk to are thinking it is time they made a dash for the freedom of cynicism."

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Constructive trust claim fails

Disclosing compelled evidence

French v Mason and Another

Before Mr Justice Pumfrey [Judgment October 23] For property to be the subject of a constructive trust, it had to come into the hands of the constructive trustee as a result of a breach of fiduciary duty or some other unconscionable dealing.

There was therefore no question of an employee retaining beneficial ownership as against his employer where the employer's title was derived from section 39 of the Patents Act 1977.

Miss Catherine Newman, QC and Mr Jonathan Shaw for the plaintiff; Mr Richard Arnold for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE PUMFREY said that the claim was one aspect of dispute between Mr French and Mr Mason which had its origins in their commercial relationship as manufacturing jewellers.

That relationship had already been the subject of a petition under section 450 of the Companies Act 1985, in which Mr Justice Jacob had held that Mr French, who held 10 per cent of the share capital in Acme Jewellery Ltd, had shown that the affairs of the company had been conducted in a manner unfairly prejudicial to him and made an order for the purchase of his shares by Mr Mason on a valuation as at July 31, 1992.

Acme, which engaged in the manufacture of jewellery, was incorporated in 1978. Mr French joined the company in 1981 as a sales representative and was successful.

In 1985 Mr French was made a director of Acme and in 1986 Mr Mason, who had provided Acme's initial capital, transferred 2 per cent of his shares in Acme to Mr French as a gift.

From some date after Mr French joined the company until the deterioration in the parties' relationship in the spring of 1991 there had been a relationship of quasi-partnership: see *In re Westbourne Galleries Ltd* (1973) AC 360.

In late 1988 Mr French invented an earring sleeper which was marketed under the name "Invincible", the subject of the disputed patents.

It was not in dispute that at the time the invention was made: (i) Mr French was employed by Acme as a salesman; (ii) he was a director of Acme; and (iii) a relationship akin to partnership existed between Mr French and Mr Mason for which Acme was the vehicle.

By operation of section 39 of the Patents Act 1977, which excluded the operation of any other rule of law, an invention belonged to an employer in two circumstances, and in all other circumstances belonged to the employee.

Those circumstances were: (a) [the invention] was made in the course of the normal duties of the employee or in the course of duties falling outside his normal duties, but specifically assigned to him, and the circumstances in either case were such that an invention might reasonably be expected to result from the carrying out of his duties; or

(b) the invention was made in the course of the duties of the employee and, at the time of making the invention, because of the nature of his duties and the particular responsibilities arising from the nature of his duties he had a special obligation to further the interests of the employer's undertaking.

Property subject to a constructive trust must have come into the hands of the alleged trustee as a result of unconscionable dealing or in breach of a fiduciary obligation.

In a case to which section 39 applied there was no question of the employee retaining beneficial ownership as against his employer. Where that was the case, the employer would require a licence to work the invention, a possibility not found anywhere in the section.

The existence of a quasi-partnership did not mean that the legal ownership of the invention by Acme was an incident of the relationship between Mr French and Mr Mason. They were not partners.

Mr French's employment commenced before the quasi-partnership, although his directorship did not.

Any special relationship came into existence before the making of the invention and was established without reference thereto. No subsequent relationship could affect the basis upon which Acme owned the invention.

Any claim for a constructive trust was also barred by the rule in *Henderson v Henderson* (1843) 3 Hare 100, 115.

An undertaking given by Mr French in the section 459 proceedings had admitted and acknowledged that the valuation of his shareholding was to be conducted on the basis, *inter alia*, that Acme owned the invention.

The claim arising out of Mr Mason's conduct vis-a-vis Mr French would clearly affect the basis of the valuation of the company. It therefore should have been resolved at the same time as the claims arising out of Acme's use of the patent.

Solicitors: Jacobsons; Wragge & Co, Birmingham.

British and Commonwealth Holdings plc (in administration) v Barclays De Zoete Wedd Ltd

Same v Atlantic Computers plc, David McCormick and Others

Same v Spicer and Oppenheim

Same v NM Rothschild and Sons Ltd

Before Mr Justice Neuberger [Judgment October 29]

Provided that the test laid down in Order 24, rule 13 of the Rules of the Supreme Court was satisfied, the fact that transcripts contained evidence given under compulsion was no reason for ordering non-disclosure.

Mr Justice Neuberger so held in the Chancery Division in a reserved judgment given in chambers when allowing an application by defendants, NM Rothschild and Sons Ltd, for inspection of transcripts of evidence in the possession of the plaintiffs, British and Commonwealth Holdings plc, Royal 150 Ltd, first third parties, and of Barclays De Zoete Wedd Ltd, Atlantic Computers plc, Mr David McCormick, Spicer and Oppenheim; defendants in related actions.

Order 24, rule 13 provides: "No order for the production of any documents for inspection... shall be made... unless the court is of the opinion that the order is necessary either for disposing fairly of the cause or matter or for saving costs".

Mr Nicholas Staden, QC and Mr Andrew Lenon for British and Commonwealth; Mr Peregrine Simon, QC, Mr Robin Dicker and Miss Helen Davies for EZW; Mr Matthew Collings for Mr McCormick; Mr Michael Harvey, QC and Miss Mary Stokes for Atlantic Computers; Mr Stanley Burton, QC and Mr Laurence Rabnowitz for Rothschild; Mr Mark Humphreys, solicitor, for Spicer and Oppenheim; Mr Guy Newey for the DTI.

MR JUSTICE NEUBERGER said that two inspectors were appointed under section 432 of the Companies Act 1985 to investigate the take-over of Atlantic Computers by British and Commonwealth Holdings.

During the course of that investigation the inspectors formally interviewed 112 witnesses. The various parties to the litigation received transcripts of only some of the witnesses who gave evidence and Rothschild said that those observations were directed to the interrelationship of the compulsion principle and Order 24, rule 13, and not to the interrelationship between the compulsion principle and Order 24, rule 11. Accordingly, when considering whether to order disclosure of the transcripts it was still open to the court to take into account the compulsion principle.

His Lordship rejected that argument on the ground that it effectively involved saying that the view expressed by Lord Justice Simon Brown had to be implicitly qualified by reference to rule 11 or was stated overlooking rule 11.

Moreover, the comments made by Lord Justice Simon Brown that there was no balancing exercise to be performed under rule 13 were difficult to reconcile with Mr Collings's submissions. There was little point in the remarks of Order 24, rule 13 had been satisfied the court was for some reason minded to refuse disclosure.

On the other hand Lord Justice Simon Brown appeared to have suggested that, once a prima facie case was made out for disclosure, the court would normally inspect the documents and satisfy itself that inspection was necessary.

However, in *Arbuthnot v Fagan* (1996) 2 Lloyd's RLR 143, where there plainly was confidentiality, it appeared that neither the judge, who ordered disclosure, nor the Court of Appeal, who upheld the decision, examined the documents before ordering disclosure.

His Lordship said that the differences between what was said by Lord Justice Simon Brown and Lord Justice Neill and done by the courts in *Arbuthnot* did not reflect a difference in principle.

In his Lordship's judgment, it could not be right to say that, as a matter of principle, the court must always or must never inspect documents which appeared to satisfy Order 24, rule 13 before ordering their disclosure, where some confidence or the compulsion principle was involved.

Although in general, the court should inspect before it concluded that confidential documents within Order 24, rule 13 but nevertheless disclosure should be refused.

In the present case, where the issues between the parties were so complex and the documentation involved an initial eleven thousand pages, it would be a waste of judicial time to carry out an inspection before deciding on disclosure.

Solicitors: Stephenson Harwood; Lovell White Durrant; Field Fisher Waterhouse; Carreras Mackenna; Ashurst Morte Crisp Linklater & Paines; Treasury Solicitor.

Judge entitled to try five cases together

Maes Finance Ltd & Mac No 1 and Another v Letfleys (a Firm)

Before Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Aldous [Judgment July 27]

A judge who ordered that five related actions against solicitors could be tried together had not erred in the exercise of his discretion when he said that he could see no reason why a Chancery Division judge could not form a fair view of each particular case.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by Letfleys (a firm) against the order of Mr Justice Jacob on October 29, 1997 that five actions should come on for trial at the same time. Letfleys submitted that trying the five actions together would be unfair and that the judge had erred in the way he had exercised his discretion under Order 4, rule 9

of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Mr Iain Hughes, QC and Mr Paul Parker for Letfleys; Miss Judith Jackson, QC and Mr Timothy Harry for Maes Finance Ltd & Mac No 1 and Eagle Star Insurance Co Ltd.

LORD JUSTICE ALDOUS said that all five actions were tried together because they proved unprofitable. They were claims by the lenders against their solicitors and the borrowers, in respect of alleged negligence, breach of contract and breach of a fiduciary relationship.

The judge concluded that if all five actions were tried together there would be a considerable saving of time and costs. He was of the view that a single trial was the most convenient way to proceed unless it would lead to inappropriate consequences.

He then considered each of the consequences that were said to make such a course inappropriate. The first was that Mr Letfley (the former senior partner), who would seem to be an important witness for the defendants, might, if he had to deal in cross-examination in five cases, become muddled. That the judge had rightly rejected.

The second circumstance, which the judge considered to be more significant, concerned the admissibility of evidence. The defendants were entitled to have each case tried and determined upon the evidence admissible to that particular case. If all the actions were tried together, evidence admissible in one action, but not in the other, would be in the mind of the judge with the result that the judge might be prejudiced.

The judge rejected that argument. He referred to *Mood Music Publishing Co Ltd v De Wolfe* (1976) Ch 119, 127 and concluded that the governing principle was that similar fact evidence would be admissible if it was logically probative.

He went on to consider whether it would be oppressive or unfair for the five cases to be tried together and concluded that the suggestion that justice would not be seen to be done if all five cases were tried together was fallacious; and that the interests of justice and the administration of justice required that all the cases be heard together.

His Lordship said that the view expressed by the judge was one that he was entitled to arrive at.

Lord Justice Peter Gibson agreed.

Solicitors: Reynolds Porter Chamberlain; Ms Caroline Mahoney.

Trying complex fraud cases

Practice Direction (Criminal Justice Act 1987: Crown court centres)

The place of trial for cases of serious or complex fraud transferred to the crown court was, with effect from November 1, 1998, to be that specified by the present direction.

Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, so stated on October 28 in the Supreme Court when handing down a Practice Direction, superseding *Practice Direction (Crime: Fraud trials)* (No 3) (The Times December 28, 1992; 1993] 1 WLR 159; 1993] 1 All ER 41; (1992) 96 Cr App R 17).

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE stated that: 1 With the concurrence of

the Lord Chancellor and pursuant to section 75(1) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 he made with effect from November 1, 1998 the following direction with regard to the place of trial for cases of serious or complex fraud transferred to the crown court under the Criminal Justice Act 1987.

2 The proposed place of trial specified in the notice of transfer under section 51(1) of the Criminal Justice Act 1987 should be one of the following crown court centres:

Midland and Oxford: Birmingham (also sitting at West Midlands trial centre), Leicester, Northampton, Nottingham, Oxford, Wolverhampton (also sitting at West Midlands trial centre).

North Eastern: Bradford, Leeds, Newcastle, Sheffield, Teesside.

Northern: Liverpool, Manchester.

South Eastern: Central Criminal Court, Chelmsford, Harrow, Kingston, Knightsbridge, Luton, Maidstone, Middlesex Guildhall, Norwich, Reading, Snaresbrook, Southwark, Wood Green.

Wales and Chester: Cardiff, Chester, Mold, Swansea, Warrington.

Western: Bristol, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Truro, Winchester.

3 Practice Direction (Crime: Fraud Trials) (No 3) made on December 16, 1992 was hereby revoked.

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The Governors invite applications for the post of Bursar and Clerk to the Governors.
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THE TIMES
EDUCATION

Children need music

Lord Menuhin believes that music can create a crime-free society. Interview by **Dalya Alberge**



Lord Menuhin, left, with his wife and children: "Music draws upon feeling and thinking, joining the emotional with the rational"

Yehudi Menuhin, one of the century's greatest violinists, has been called on the Government to recognise that music, dancing and singing have a vital role to play in civilising the young. Crime, he believes, could be reduced if only we gave our children a more cultural education.

The arts, according to Lord Menuhin, should be a part of daily life but, instead, society has focused its attention on policing and prisons and moved away from music and culture. "That's not an answer to our society, which is materialistic and crime-ridden," Lord Menuhin says. "Art reflects the refinement of a civilisation. Violence and sex are all right, translated as energy and desire, but in their crude state are uncivilised. Music goes both ways. You make yourself heard and listen to others."

Idealistic, perhaps, but Lord Menuhin has evidence. He points to the success of a pilot project at Oxford Gardens, a primary school in a violent area of West London. "They were having inner-city problems," he says. "Several teachers had to leave when they couldn't stand stabbings and God knows what. As soon as they brought in singing — and, this year, dancing — the school was transformed."

Liz Rayment-Pickard, the head teacher, says the programme has made an enormous difference, making the school an oasis in what is quite an aggressive community. "Certainly, in terms of the project being a crucial part of the school life, it has influenced the ethos of the school," she says. "It is much calmer. The fact that music is part of the curriculum is very powerful, particularly in a school that didn't have that much music before. This has been an extraordinary project to be involved with."

Ms Rayment-Pickard concedes that initially she had doubts about the project: "I was taken aback by the success. I am not a musician so I was pretty hesitant about whether it would work."

Lord Menuhin says: "We may need policing and prisons in the short run, but

you don't create a better society through them." Music, mime and the martial arts, he says, are liberating in that they channel and discipline energy. "They teach a reverence for craft and skill," Lord Menuhin says.

He acknowledges, however, that much depends on the quality of the teacher, and notes that society tends to look on a child as "an empty sack into which we stuff facts and knowledge".

Singing and dancing should be integrated into the daily routine in every school every day: "It creates the basis for intellectual development," Lord Menuhin says. "Music draws upon feeling and thinking, joining the emotional with the rational. It brings out the best in a child or young adult."

In an ideal world every schoolchild

would have a musical instrument, he says, but emphasises that it is not a matter of money because singing and dancing cost nothing. "Everyone has a voice, lungs, eyes and a heart with which to communicate," he says. "It comes from the inner life of a child."

Interestingly, Lord Menuhin declares the world of the arts devoid of criminal elements: "I've never known any school of music or art to produce a criminal. It just doesn't happen. I can't tell you the joy in seeing these children happy. When they sing and dance, they think better, understand better, are more communicative with each other and the world."

The first basic condition of thinking depends on both the emotional and the rational together. By bringing the music project into schools, we create a natural

condition where there is no need to teach tolerance or warn against crime. There can be no crime."

There are numerous examples of the benefits, according to Susan Digby of the Voices Foundation, a charity which worked with Lord Menuhin in the Oxford Gardens school and which will take the arts project into schools in ten European countries.

She found the transformation of one nine-year-old boy at Oxford Gardens particularly moving. "He came from an illiterate immigrant family and had been rejected by his peers. He was very miserable. Through the singing programme, he integrated with them and, above all, it promotes tolerance as every pupil is involved."

The scheme targets a particular school

for one year. It breaks down barriers and improves channels of communication, Ms Digby says, especially in a school such as Oxford Gardens in which more than 20 languages are spoken. It also improves the mental agility of pupils, self-confidence and self-esteem, although Ms Digby admits: "It's hard to prove how and why scientifically."

While efforts have concentrated on primary and nursery education, the Voices Foundation hopes to extend the project to secondary level. Some educationists believe that from the age of 12, the door to character transformation starts to close. But the group has also applied its concepts to the corporate sector, adapting the programme into team-building schemes for large companies such as Marks & Spencer.

Nineteen signatures to get my son into nursery

Schools are tied up in red tape, says Sue Ellicott

When my two-year-old son started nursery school a few weeks ago, the distance between Britain in the 1960s and California in the 1990s never felt greater. As a toddler more than 30 years ago, my first taste of independent life was a Wendy House in the corner of a Methodist hall, where mummies doled out orange squash. But Los Angeles today has little in common with the Cornwall of my childhood, which is why I'm still recovering from the nine sets of initials and 19 signatures I had to provide before my son was accepted by his first American school.

Nineteen signatures, that is, excluding those on his application and the cheques I later wrote for his monthly "tuition", registration, obligatory earthquake kit and another for the pass that allows us into the underground car park.

Yet in Britain this week the Government initiated contracts between pupils, parents and schools, outlining their rights and obligations to one another. Schools must offer the contracts from September, but neither parents nor pupils have to sign them, nor are they legally binding.

Getting one's child into any kind of care in America has become an exercise in penmanship. But compared with many nurseries for two-year-olds, my son's is easygoing. Yet even before he started, the school's director, a usually cheery woman with a sensible manner, handed me a fat folder that took one full hour to read and another to reread and sign.

First, I signed something saying that I'd read an enclosed pamphlet about sexual abuse and how to prevent it, something else naming those authorised to collect my child from class, something giving the school permission to take him to hospital if he is injured and something accepting "full financial responsibility" for his treatment and transport. There was also some-

Teachers and schools live in constant fear of being sued by parents or students

thing giving my consent to his leaving school on foot for field trips, something about my "parental rights" to visit the centre during opening hours and even something permitting his teachers to apply sunscreen to him during outdoor play. Not just any old sunscreen: the children are allowed to apply only the sunscreen their parents provide.

"It's ridiculous, I know," says the school's director. "But most of the forms are not even ours. They are requested by the state. And we have fewer than schools in many other places."

Teachers and schools live in constant fear of being sued by parents or students for any transgression, real or imagined, and forms rather than common sense have become their guiding light.

One day I arrived to pick up my son during a heatwave. His entire class was playing around the water sprinkler, except for Harper, who was at a table in the shade.

He could not join in. I was told, because his sunblock had run out. I offered to lend him ours but his teacher waved a finger.

"We can't do that," she said. "He might be allergic to it and we'd be responsible."

Mealtimes are also fraught with problems. Teachers are nervous about feeding children any of the "high-risk" foods linked by studies (which have been given big media play) to allergies and fatal accidents among small children. Hence a page in my nursery pack banning peanuts, grapes and raisins from my son's packed lunches. Apparently, he might choke on one. Personally, I think he's more likely to come to grief on the slide, shoved by a thugish classmate — but there was no form for that.

I can't make a fuss. Stropky types should beware: there is no messing with American rules. Among the forms signed was a pledge understanding that my child may be discharged from his school "should I fail to comply with the annexed policies or the appropriate requirements of the management personnel".

On balance, it is the teachers who deserve our sympathy. In New Jersey, a chapter of the National Education Association, a teachers' union, has defended a male teacher accused by a primary-age girl of sexual assault after he adjusted her fingers on a musical instrument.

He won his case but gave up teaching, saying the lawsuit had wrecked his life. The New Jersey union now asks gym and music teachers to have a second adult present during practice.

Administrators have little choice but to protect themselves and their staff as best they can from overzealous parents.

So concerned are some teachers about potential sexual lawsuits that unions and school districts have banned their members from giving pupils hugs or encouraging pats on the back, lest they be misconstrued as abusive.

SOUNDING OUT MUSIC IN SCHOOLS

Music used to be a compulsory part of the national curriculum at primary level, with all teaching requirements specified in detail. But since the start of this term, there is only a glimmer of hope that music will be included in the curriculum, as it is dropped to make more time for literacy and numeracy. The result? In many schools, especially those without a specialist musician on the staff, music classes have either gone or are being slowly phased out.

Yet there is growing evidence that music can help children to progress in other subjects. Sir

Simon Rattle says: "Because in music children have to work together to create a performance, every type of social, organisational and co-operative skill is exercised."

Although there are scores of musically impoverished primary schools all over Britain, we also have dozens of fine professional orchestras, which will need performers in the future. So it makes perfect sense for schools and orchestras to work together. This is why Orchestras NOW, an ambitious education campaign, has been launched by the Association of British Orchestras

(ABO) to develop more musical awareness in primary children.

Last spring's National Orchestra Week, when orchestras opened their doors to the public to mark the association's half-centenary, was such a success that ABO decided to take the initiative much further. Fiona Penny, an education officer, appointed to run the Orchestras NOW project, says the aim is "to develop relationships which will help schools and their children to flourish".

For a term or so, Orchestras NOW will assign individual musicians to schools to work in partnership with teachers. What the teacher lacks in musical skill, the musician can provide. In return, the teachers can lend support with their classroom skills.

Libby MacNamara, of ABO, recalls an earlier initiative in which a teacher at Cragside Primary School in Newcastle upon Tyne, worked with the Northern Sinfonia. "Several musicians visited her classroom and the children eventually performed, with the Northern Sinfonia, a piece specially written by Peter Maxwell Davies."

Cragside is in a deprived area and, five years ago, there was lit-

tle or no music there. Today music has permeated the whole school and many children are learning instruments. Under the scheme, primary schools within reach of one of the 40 or so participating orchestras will receive information about the programmes. Next term Orchestras NOW is offering six free training days in different parts of the country for non-specialist teachers. Each day is to be hosted by an orchestra, which will describe its work and take participants through an introductory workshop led by the composer Alec Roth and orchestral players. A

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'Sweaty sports are just not feminine'

Why are school games broken down on gender lines? **Helene Mulholland** finds out why football is still a boy thing

Fact: girls play hockey, netball and lacrosse, boys play football, rugby and cricket. The division of team sports by gender has never been actively tackled by schools and though greater choice now exists (there are 3,000 female football teams) this does not reflect the options available to men and women.

The business world seems to acknowledge that team sports play an increasing role in women's lives, as shown by the recent sponsorship deal of women's football by AXA, the insurance company that also sponsors the FA Cup. But what is the education system doing to redress the balance?

The Education Reform Act 1988 marked an attempt to make some progress. It enshrines in law the principle that children are entitled to a broad and balanced curriculum relevant to their particular needs. The potential for change is evident in the national curriculum for physical education and the co-educational training of PE teachers.

The Department for Education says: "There is no stipulation in the national curriculum on gender division. It just sets out what children are required to be taught at various stages of their school life."

The requirements include games, gymnastics, dance, athletics, outdoor and adventure activities and swimming. From primary school to the end of secondary education, the categories do not change, but the levels to which they must be achieved and developed, do.

Planning, performance and evaluating are vital ingredients of the PE national curriculum. Surprisingly, the choice of sports that are taught is left to the school's discretion.

Dr Chris Laws is head of physical education at Chichester Institute of Higher Education. The college has 350 student teachers and Dr Laws says that within the 25 institutions in the country that offer PE teacher training, co-education is very much the norm.

"There is nothing in the curriculum which states that boys must be taught football and girls must be taught net-

ball," he says. At PE college, students are taught competence in all aspects of the national curriculum regardless of gender. They do exactly the same sports and the same training.

With such a fertile terrain for equal opportunities, what happens between teacher theory and practice that leads to a rekindling of the divide in the majority of schools?

Dr Laws believes that cultural mores cannot be overlooked. "Playing sport and getting dirty and sweating is not in line with feminine images," he claims.

"Aerobics — an activity in feminine and light Lycra — seems to many people more fitting."

Jeanne Keay, principal PE lecturer at Leeds Metropolitan University, is also aware that full emancipation of pupils in their sporting education has yet to be achieved, both for girls and for boys. But she is adamant that the problem is being tackled. "We work very hard with students to break the mould of boys' games and girls' games," she says. "But it is a slow process because it involves not just teachers but society as a whole."

Changing the thinking on sport is best started from the top. As head of girls' PE at Cardinal Newman Roman Catholic Secondary School in Brighton, East Sussex, Jenny Thompson is tackling the problem head-on. As well as netball and dance, she teaches girls football, rugby and cricket. Opportunities she admits that she never had. "Every school in Brighton and Hove teaches girls to play football, but not necessarily cricket and certainly not rugby."

Cardinal Newman's policy is to teach girls and boys the same activities — apart from netball and dance, which boys do not have to do. Ms Thompson also coaches her students in football and cricket after school so that they can compete at tournament and league level. But as the only school in the area teaching girls rugby, competitive matches are not an option.

Most parents have not complained, except when the kits come back very dirty. "But," says Ms Thompson, "I did get a complaint last year from a parent who told me that girls shouldn't chest the ball because they will get breast cancer."

What do the girls think of playing football and rugby? Most of them seem really excited, Ms Thompson says, although more than a few do not like getting muddy. "Some of the girls identify being dirty with spoiling their hair and make-up. If it's windy, muddy and raining, it's a nightmare for them."

Getting hot, dirty and sweaty, says Anita White, director of development at the Sports Council, is not seen as a trait of womanhood. "For boys," she adds, "sport has always been a great way to prove their manhood. It doesn't work the other way around."

Ultimately, what doesn't help is the near invisibility of women's team sports in the mainstream media, whether it is netball, hockey or women's rugby. "One of the problems is that girls don't have female role models to admire," Ms White says.

"If you ask girls who their sporting heroes are they are often men. Women rarely have such high profiles."



Ultimate goal: the national curriculum does not stipulate gender division

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CRICKET

Healy intent on smoothing off his rough edges

THROUGH the five, one-sided series and 28 Test matches since the Ashes last changed hands, two Australians have danced constantly at the bedside of the English patient. Mark Taylor has somehow commanded affection but Ian Healy has inspired irritation, suspicion and only a grudging respect.

In the cricketing culture of heroes and villains, Healy has always worn the black. Indeed it is only now, with 106 caps and a world-record number of dismissals to his name, that perceptions of the Australia wicketkeeper are changing for the better. The way he is going, he will retire with the admiration that he merits.

Yesterday, as the tropical clouds gathered over Cairns and local talk was of early monsoons threatening an England XI's four-day game against Queensland, Healy was nonetheless preparing in his usual way. He had an indoor net, a session on the massage table and then used a laptop computer to study every ball he gloved, or dropped, during the state's most recent match. As ever, nothing if not meticulous.

Along with the trademark characteristics of diligence, energy and feisty single-mindedness, however, features new are evident in Healy. "I think I've mellowed," he said. He goes further, acknowledging with sadness the low opinion of him that was widely broadcast over a number of years.

"A lot of images of me have been wrong but perception can become reality. I think I was seen as very aggressive, very blokey, very mouthy. A high percentage of that was inaccurate but no one was willing to get to know me better, they were just happy to go on projecting it. My rawness had rough edges. I know that, but we weren't a confident team in my early days. I was trying to please the team, not the people. I can see both sides now, and these days we've got a team that simply needs me to be decisive, not the prickly, combative character I was."

He has not suddenly become a pussycat but perhaps he was never the snarling Doberman, either, just tough and durable with a desire to win that occasionally trespassed into areas of offence. I suggested that his on-field integrity was sometimes questioned

Alan Lee talks to Australia's combative but mellowing wicketkeeper

and he responded levelly. "You're telling me that and I don't disbelieve it, because it was two years before I even realised I was being bagged for over-appealing."

Healy came into cricket from a daunting background — teaching physical education in a high school south of Brisbane. "It was rough," he recalled. "People think it's easy teaching outdoors but the kids have got no walls there." He had a brief, radical career change, into selling women's fashions, before turning professional after his first Ashes series, in 1989.



Healy: wicketkeeper supreme

By then, he had suffered feelings of inadequacy during his debut tour of Pakistan. "I was the sixth wicketkeeper they'd tried in the four years since Rod Marsh packed up. I was raw, overawed and insecure. I couldn't quite work out why I was there." Quite a contrast with his most recent return to Pakistan for a series in which he broke Marsh's dismissals record and helped Australia to their first win in the sub-continent for 29 years.

"It was good to be part of a team that wasn't scared of being there," he said. "When I first went, we were expecting too many bad things from the umpires, the pitches or the food. Now, we turn every situation into a positive."

Healy is reluctant to add his voice to the orgasmic nationalism preceding this series — one newspaper yesterday claimed that the second-best team in the world was Australia A — and he disputed the popular cry that it is becoming boring for Australians to beat England. "I've always prepared for tough series against England and I feel the same way about this one. I look at their team on paper and I feel it should be very even. It can never be monotonous playing against England."

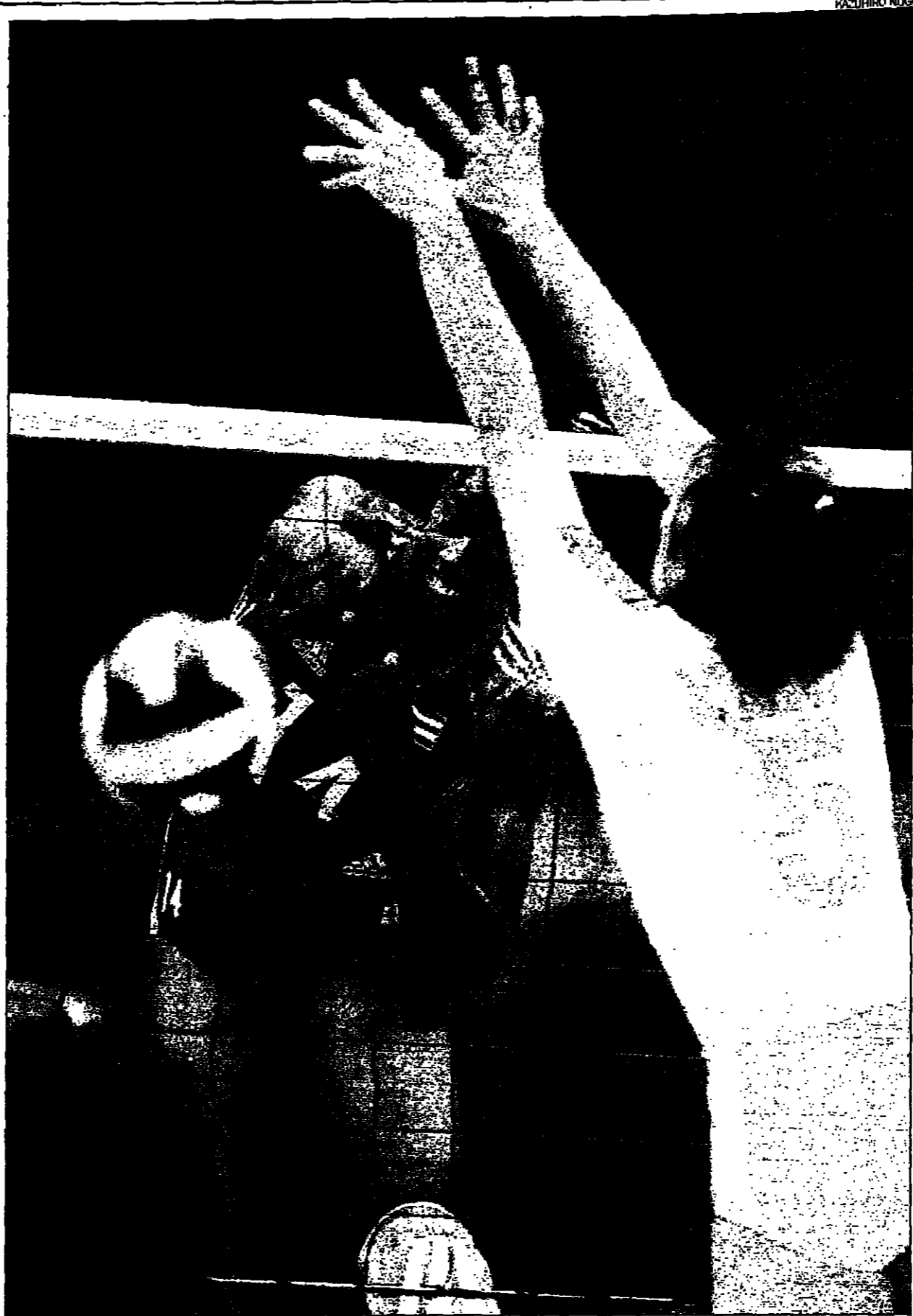
If anything has increased recognition of Healy's skills, it is the way that he has kept wicket to Shane Warne. "Shane has allowed me to showcase what I can do. It has been a constant challenge but I've risen to it, so my profile has improved. Warne has helped wicketkeeping as well as spin bowling."

"We will be starting this series without him and it leaves a psychological hole. I don't think we will ever properly fill it. But we have got to try." This realistic attitude is typical of Healy. Since he studied sports science, when in teacher training, he has kept careful and comprehensive diaries detailing every day of his career. They do not spare him, nor do they spare others. "If you are lying to yourself, it's a waste of time. Honesty is a crucial part of team success."

The diaries are littered with quotations that have struck him as apposite. When he toured the Caribbean seven years ago, he had just watched the film, *Bodyguard*, and busily noted the words: "If you eliminate the fear of death, you can become invincible." He maintains that saying helped him when batting against the fast bowlers.

In later years, he has become a talismanic figure to the Australia team. He is first into training sessions and last to leave, he personally designed the striped blazers that have become the team uniform and, of right, he leads the singing after a Test victory.

By his own admission, he is thorough almost to the point of obsessiveness. At 34, he confessed: "I'm aware of what is expected from a senior player but I don't always like it. I'd rather finish as I started, doing everything to the full. I don't even like having two or three beers and then stopping. It's none or a gulf."



Ana Fernandez smashes a winner as Cuba confirm their status as the top team in women's volleyball by retaining the world championship title with a 3-0 win over China in the final in Osaka, Japan, yesterday. Cuba won by 15-4, 16-14, 15-12 and except for their new, skintight strip, little had changed in the two

years since the countries met at the Olympic final in Atlanta, where the Cubans prevailed by the same 3-0 scoreline. China, who landed successive world titles in 1982 and 1986, meekly surrendered the opening set but offered more resistance in the second and third. They looked as if they might make a real fight

of it when opening a 10-4 lead in the third set, but were unable to press home their advantage. The Cubans also reaped most of the individual awards, including that for the world's best player, which went to Regla Torres Herrera, along with a cheque for \$100,000. Russia won the bronze medal by beating Brazil.

Cork handed empty Cup

DOMINIC CORK'S ambitions of playing in the World Cup next summer seem destined for disappointment. So, too, do those of Nasser Hussain, Mark Ramprakash and Alastair Brown after their omission from a provisional, 23-strong squad for the triangular one-day series in Australia starting in January.

Cork has never quite matched performance potential in limited-overs cricket, but he is the most pointed absentee. Hussain, who deeply desires a regular place in the one-day team, will be dismayed by his rejection but the most pertinent decision is to reject Brown, or rather his cavalier style as an opening batsman, in favour of the more conventional approach of Michael Atherton.

There are two uncapped selections, in Mark Alleyne and Vince Wells, and John Crawley has also been offered a window to the World Cup. Although Warren Hegg is

among the 23, David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, specified that "a part-time wicketkeeper, such as Crawley, could be deemed sufficient cover for Alec Stewart when the squad is reduced to a maximum of 18 next month."



Cork rejected

Adam Holloake is retained in the party, despite ludicrous media speculation that he would be banished for a jokey, if ill-advised, drug-based remark after England's elimination from the ICC tournament in Bangladesh.

Naturally, he will be accompanied by Ben, his younger brother, who was last night coming to terms with the fact that he faces at least another three weeks in Australia before he will have the chance to justify his inclusion in the Ashes party.

Holloake Jr was fit for selection for the four-day game against Queensland today, having recovered from a pulled groin muscle, but he did not even feature in a squad of 12 named here last night.

"We want to give the more experienced players more cricket," Graham Gooch, the tour manager, explained, "but I am very aware it is tough on the lads."

Games heroes face long winter haul

ENGLAND'S four Commonwealth Games champions will be put to the test as they begin their winter race programmes at the Speedo British Grand Prix in Wolverhampton this weekend.

The event takes on added significance because it offers the last chance for British swimmers to qualify for the European short-course championships, to be held in Sheffield next month.

The four English swimmers who managed to conquer the mighty Australians at the Games in Malaysia, Susan Rolph, Katy Sexton, James Hickman and Mark Foster, are already assured of places in Sheffield.

But many who competed at the Games must prove themselves afresh at the start of what is an exceptionally busy winter race programme. Beyond the domestic grand prix and European short-course championships, there

are the national championships and 12 rounds of the World Cup before the season culminates in the world short-course championships in Hong Kong next spring.

Paul Palmer, Britain's best swimmer in recent years, is still not ready to return to top competition after suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome in the summer.

Chris Martin, the American coach who has headed the City of Birmingham team for two seasons, has been appointed national coach to Scotland.

Martin, 38, had been tipped for the post of head coach of the swimming division of the United Kingdom Sports Institute in Sheffield.

However, he said that there were "too many political problems" related to the job and was disappointed that Birmingham was not being considered more seriously as a candidate for a centre of excellence for swimming.

MacArthur goes battling on through adversity

ELLEN MacARTHUR, of Great Britain, is experiencing the hardest single-handed sailing of her career as she pilots Pete Goss's Open 50, *Aqua Quorum*, now renamed *Kingfisher*, through a succession of unpleasant Atlantic depressions in the opening stages of the *Route du Rhum* race.

However, despite the tough conditions, MacArthur, 22, is continuing to perform well. Yesterday, *Kingfisher* was the leading 50ft monohull in the race and was holding eighth place overall in the monohull fleet with seven much more powerful Open 60s ahead of her and five astern.

But MacArthur's battle with *Kingfisher*, and, indeed, the opposition, is being made far harder than need be because of the absence of roller-furling gear on the headsails.

Her distressing experiences over the past three days underline not only what a hard nut Goss must be to have worked this system through the South-

ern Ocean, but also how much more difficult he made life for himself by not installing a relatively straightforward and reliable system, on which most single-handers rely.

MacArthur's rivals can shorten sail in minutes from

the safety of their cockpits, but she is taking up to 55 minutes to do the same job. Trying to keep her footing, on an unstable foredeck swept by white water as the boat pounds to windward, is exhausting and dangerous.

On Tuesday, in a 30-knot squall, MacArthur received a nasty blow to the head.

"While changing down to storm jib, I got whipped — mega bruises — and then, as the deck threw itself up at me, I caught my leg under the spinnaker pole and whacked my head hard on the forestay and hanks. Instant swelling the size of a golf ball," she reported.

MacArthur is ploughing on. She continues to drive herself to the limits, but five of the 35 skippers who set out from St Malo on Sunday for the 4,000-mile race to Guadeloupe have now retired. The leader yesterday was Catherine Chabaud, of France, in *Whirlpool Europe 2*, who was 120 miles ahead of *Kingfisher*.



MacArthur: hurt in squall

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RACING: BOLGER PLOTS NEW TRIUMPH IN CROSS-COUNTRY EVENT

Walsh can take winning route on Lucky Town

By Chris McGrath



ALTHOUGH plenty of top-class jumpers have already been lured out of hibernation by a wet autumn...

St Roger in another strong challenge: 'They will have their cut out over, however, against McGregor's two runners.

Vodafone extension

THE Derby, considered jaded a few short years ago, confirmed its renewed vitality yesterday when Vodafone announced a three-year extension...

Richard Evans
Name: CAVALERO (1.15 Cheltenham)
Nb: Song Of The Sword (3.00 Cheltenham)

Channel 4. Held up off a crawl last time, Daira (1.50) has to have her stamina examined over timber so this stiff track and a decent pace could conjure improvement.

The Mitsubishi Shogun Handicap Chase looks better than the northern raiders, Forestal, unbeaten when competing over fences, was flattered at Wetherby.

CHELTHENHAM

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2.25 Hurricane Lamp
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Timekeeper's top rating: 1.50 MUKDAR.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

1.15 REGENCY FINANCIAL PLANNING AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP CHASE (€5,840: 3m 10) (6 runners)

201 22111 TAMARINDO 172 (F.F.S.) (D. Johnson) (M Pipe) 5-12-0 ... A Fancourt (3) ... 202 1111-2 CAVALERO 17 (F.F.S.) (H. Haggart) (H. Haggart) 9-11-1 ... A. Challen-Jones (7) ...

1.50 MURPHY'S IRISH STOUT NOVICES HURDLE (SHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE) (€7,458: 2m 110yd) (17 runners)

201 1131 DANBURY 9 (F.F.S.) (D. Johnson) (M Pipe) 5-11-11 ... R. Donnelly (2) ... 202 400-5 SPIN AND TIPS 117 (D.D.) (L. Lanning) (P. Haggart) 5-11-11 ... J. Haggart ...

2.25 MITSUBISHI SHOGUN TROPHY (Handicap chase: €10,124: 2m) (5 runners)

201 43221 INDIAN JOCKEY 43 (D.F.F.S.) (S. McGeary) (M Pipe) 6-11-13 ... C. Maitland 108 ... 202 1111-1 FORESTAL 30 (D.S.) (H. Haggart) (H. Haggart) 8-11-1 ... A.P. McCoy 130 ...

3.00 STEEL PLATE AND SECTIONS NOVICES CHASE (€9,531: 3m 10) (5 runners)

401 002-1 GILLAN COWE 9 (S.) (D. Johnson) (M Pipe) 5-11-11 ... A. Thomson 109 ... 402 233-4 WOODTON CROPPERS 30 (F.F.S.) (D. Johnson) (M Pipe) 5-11-11 ... J. Haggart ...

3.35 SPORTING INDEX CHASE (Cross-country course: £17,508: 3m 7) (14 runners)

501 12-233 LUCKY TOWN 51 (F.F.S.) (H. Haggart) (H. Haggart) 7-11-11 ... A. Walsh ... 502 233-4 WOODTON CROPPERS 30 (F.F.S.) (D. Johnson) (M Pipe) 5-11-11 ... J. Haggart ...

4.05 MARCHPOLE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HURDLE (€7,763: 2m 5) (22 runners)

601 11499 SOUTHERN MAN 18 (F.F.S.) (D. Johnson) (M Pipe) 5-11-11 ... L. Agnew ... 602 000-5 ZAFFRAN FLUN 6 (S.) (S. McGeary) (M Pipe) 5-11-11 ... G. F. Ryan ...

NEWCASTLE

THUNDERER
12.55 Free. 1.30 High Island. 2.05 Noshinankin. 2.40 Brambleberry. 3.15 Woodfield Gate. 3.45 Clairabell.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS

12.55 NORTHERN BACING JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-O: £2,265: 2m) (8 runners)

1 212 FREE SOOT 14 (D.F.S.) (H. Haggart) (H. Haggart) 7-11-11 ... P. Negan ... 2 202 BOBBY CRACK 20 (S.) (D. Johnson) (M Pipe) 5-11-11 ... J. Haggart ...

1.30 GOSFORTH PARK NOVICES CHASE (€2,892: 3m) (12)

1 2-13 TRUE SOOT 14 (D.F.S.) (H. Haggart) (H. Haggart) 7-11-11 ... P. Negan ... 2 202 BOBBY CRACK 20 (S.) (D. Johnson) (M Pipe) 5-11-11 ... J. Haggart ...

2.05 STANNINGTON NOVICES HURDLE (€2,411: 2m 4) (14)

1 541 BRANCH ROAD 171 (D.F.) (D. Johnson) (M Pipe) 5-11-11 ... R. Strain ... 2 002 ANRANDE 20 (S.) (D. Johnson) (M Pipe) 5-11-11 ... J. Haggart ...

NEWCASTLE FLOORING HANDICAP CHASE (€2,762: 2m 110yd) (10)

1 405 BRAMBLESBERRY 210 (D.F.S.) (H. Haggart) (H. Haggart) 7-11-11 ... J. Haggart ... 2 211 PRINCE OF SAUNTS 213 (S.) (D. Johnson) (M Pipe) 5-11-11 ... P. Negan ...

3.15 NEWCASTLE FLOORING HANDICAP HURDLE (€2,836: 2m 4) (6)

1 205 DO BE HAVE 816 (S.) (D. Johnson) (M Pipe) 5-11-11 ... G. Catterall ... 2 2-1 WOODFIELD GATE 19 (F.F.S.) (H. Haggart) (H. Haggart) 7-11-11 ... J. Haggart ...

3.45 ST MOWEN HANDICAP CHASE (€3,501: 3m) (6)

1 104-P PUREWILLIE 20 (D.F.S.) (H. Haggart) (H. Haggart) 7-11-11 ... P. Negan ... 2 202 BOBBY CRACK 20 (S.) (D. Johnson) (M Pipe) 5-11-11 ... J. Haggart ...

2.15 PEVERIL STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,295: 5) (17)

1 00 BUSTLING ROAD 7 (S.) (D. Johnson) (M Pipe) 5-11-11 ... L. Challen-Jones ... 2 202 BOBBY CRACK 20 (S.) (D. Johnson) (M Pipe) 5-11-11 ... J. Haggart ...

2.50 TULIP NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £2,855: 7) (14)

1 005 EVERALTS OUT 42 (M) (D. Johnson) (M Pipe) 5-11-11 ... G. Duffield ... 2 202 BOBBY CRACK 20 (S.) (D. Johnson) (M Pipe) 5-11-11 ... J. Haggart ...

1.05 DAFODIL HANDICAP (Div I: £1,987: 7) (16)

1 202 BOBBY CRACK 20 (S.) (D. Johnson) (M Pipe) 5-11-11 ... J. Haggart ... 2 000 PLEASURE 21 (D.F.) (D. Johnson) (M Pipe) 5-11-11 ... P. Negan ...

1.40 CARNATION STAKES (Div II: £1,945: 6) (15)

1 000 MALLIA 23 (D.F.S.) (H. Haggart) (H. Haggart) 7-11-11 ... D. Peers ... 2 4-20 TAYNSIDE 13 (S.) (D. Johnson) (M Pipe) 5-11-11 ... J. Haggart ...

3.25 LILY STAKES (2-Y-O: £1,956: 1m) (16)

1 0000 BALLYVOYR RIVER 22 (S.) (D. Johnson) (M Pipe) 5-11-11 ... V. Haggart ... 2 3100 HONEY STORM 36 (S.) (D. Johnson) (M Pipe) 5-11-11 ... J. Haggart ...

3.55 DAFODIL HANDICAP (Div II: £1,977: 7) (16)

1 3525 COLONER CUSTER 18 (S.) (D. Johnson) (M Pipe) 5-11-11 ... D. McKeown ... 2 3100 HONEY STORM 36 (S.) (D. Johnson) (M Pipe) 5-11-11 ... J. Haggart ...

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Taunton

1.00 Lm 110yd 70.9. 1. The Wren. D. G. ... 1.00 Lm 110yd 70.9. 1. The Wren. D. G. ...

Ludlow

1.10 Cm 1m 20. 1. Barty Baggott. H. ... 1.10 Cm 1m 20. 1. Barty Baggott. H. ...

Lingfield Park

1.20 (m 20). 1. Chalmers Choice. H. ... 1.20 (m 20). 1. Chalmers Choice. H. ...

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SOUTHWELL 103 203
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Ferguson keeps plenty in reserve

BY KEVIN EASON

THE prospect of playing a reserve side for a place in the semi-finals of the Worthington Cup would normally brighten George Graham's day.

A reserve side that can boast Jordi Cruyff and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer will still be feared by

QUARTER-FINALS

Wimbledon v Chelsea Tottenham v Man Utd Sunderland v Luton Leicester v Blackburn

Graham's men, according to Ferguson. "They will play against Tottenham. We have said what our policy is and we want to do well."

That particular week is quite a difficult one for us because we have a Sunday game against Leeds, then a game against Aston Villa and then Bayern Munich the week after that.

The draw for the last eight guarantees the appearance of one Nationwide League team in the semi-finals with Sunderland, who beat Everton on penalties, facing Luton Town, of the second division, at the Stadium of Light.

HOCKEY

Havant pitch in for cup contests

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN AND CATHY HARRIS

HAVANT will ensure that their new dual-colour, artificial turf pitch is given a thorough work-out when they stage two third-round matches in the English Hockey Association Cup on Sunday.

The latter is one of three ties that pair clubs from the National League premier division. Guildford and Old Loughaniens will clash at Broadwater School, Goslingham. Ian Jennings, the Guildford player-coach, relies on Hall, Sampson and Fox in attack and Old Loughaniens will pin hopes on Smith and Thompson for their goals.

Minnows travel to Fulham hoping to take a leaf out of United's book Leigh's army dreaming of glory

BY STEPHEN WOOD

THERE will be a southbound exodus from the metropolitan borough of Wigan this weekend but, in a rare switch of allegiance, few will bother to stop off in Watford for the conclusion of the rugby league international series.

That statement is, perhaps, a little cheeky, for Leigh have



Whealing, formerly with Blackburn Rovers, prepares for the FA Cup tie at Fulham on Sunday in the less-glamorous surroundings of Leigh RMI



only been in existence for 3 1/2 years but, in truth, it could also apply to their 109-year history as Horwich RMI. In 1995, with no future for them in Horwich, they changed their name, address and, to an extent, their identity.

difficult to comprehend the level of interest and excitement we've been attracting recently. "The club had to move from Horwich, mainly because the pitch at Grundy Hill did not meet Football Association limitations - it was like a ski slope. We have struggled to settle down at Hilton Park, and the crowds of around 300 have been very disappointing, but this is the day we have been praying for."

stopped playing after leaving Blackburn, an early retirement prevented only by the persuasive powers of Gerry Luczka, the assistant manager at Leigh. The FA Cup itself was on display at Leigh's training session last night, for all those new fans to admire. And if Waywell can outfox another big-name manager in Kevin Keegan on Sunday, the consequences for Leigh are unthinkable. "That would get us universal acceptance back home," Robinson said. "In fact, I don't think we'd be able to cope with the attention."

Hendrie sets sights on another golden goal

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK

WHEN the draw for the first round of the FA Cup was made, those with long memories were struck by the fate that paired Manchester City with Halifax Town at Maine Road to night. Their thoughts went back to the third round on January 5, 1980, at The Shay, when City, then in the old first division, lost to Halifax, of the fourth division - a result that was generally regarded as the low point of Malcolm Allison's second spell as City manager.

Nick Szczepanik hears the manager of Tamworth reminisce about a giant-killing and dream of a family reunion

ing from midfield," he said. "I timed the run right. Joe Corrigan came out and I hit it into the bottom corner. "I've had ups and downs in the FA Cup. When I was with Birmingham City, I was sub in the FA Cup semi-final against Fulham at Hillsborough and I played in the replay. Fulham scored the winner so late that they were announcing on the Tannoy the details for ticket allocations for the second replay at Highbury. Without doubt, the goal against City is the best cup memory I've had. It will always stick in my mind."



Hendrie plans to outwit Exeter

notist, someone called Romark from London, who was supposed to have a curse on Malcolm Allison. "If nothing so exotic, Hendrie has plans for the game tomorrow against Exeter. "We had them watched on Saturday, and my assistant went to see them at Rochdale on Tuesday." Predictions? "No. We'll just go out there and give it our best shot." He is sure of one thing, however - that his side will take Exeter on for skill, rather than try to muscle them out of their game. "I don't encourage kick and rush. I like to get it down and play. There's no sense in changing our tactics and the type of players I've brought in don't play that way," Hendrie said. One of his most experienced players, Tim Steele, is a former Exeter man. "We're looking forward to it. The one thing a league club doesn't want is to be drawn away to a non-league club and while Exeter are quite strong at home, their away record isn't that good. And they will be up against a partisan crowd. Our supporters are very loud and could play a big part."

TENNIS: VICTORY FOR HENMAN TODAY WILL CONFIRM PLACE IN ATP TOUR FINALS

Rusedski holds right course

BY JULIAN MUSCAT TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

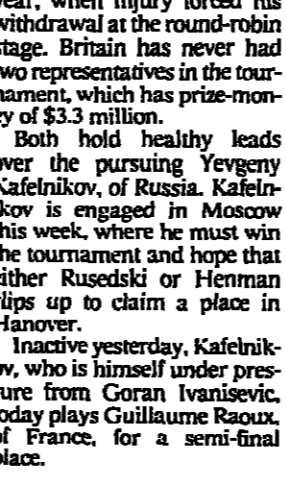
GREG RUSEDSKI moved within touching distance of the ATP Tour championship in Hanover when he defeated Vincent Spadea, of the United States, in the second round of the Scanian Open in Stockholm yesterday.

EQUESTRIANISM

Whitaker takes steps to recover

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN BERLIN

JOHN WHITAKER underlined his rapid recovery from his fall from Hunter's Level in Vienna when he and his young Russian-bred stallion, Steps Helsinki, won the opening event, a speed class at the Berlin international show yesterday.



Rusedski: straight-sets win

BOWLS: ENGLAND RETURN TO ACTION LOOKING TO CONFIRM QUARTER-FINAL PLACE

Champions enjoy strong position

ENGLAND, the defending champions, lead the section A league table after seven out of 11 rounds of the Manulife Hong Kong International classic pairs here at Kowloon and appear certain to qualify for the quarter-finals. Andy Wills and Stuart Airey were invited to represent England in the classic in 1996, after a succession of high-profile players had turned in disappointing performances, and won the trophies that year, followed by the pairs last year. Returning to the green after a rest day, they take on Australia, Kowloon Cricket Club and the

هكذا من الأصل

SPORT IN BRIEF

Harold takes initiative in final

SNOOKER: Dave Harold closed in on the second tournament win of his seven-year professional career, and an automatic wild-card invitation to the Masters at Wembley later this season, by establishing a 4-3 lead over David Gray, of Morden, in the opening session of the best-of-17-frame Benson and Hedges championship final at Malvern yesterday.

TENNIS: Venus Williams, of the United States, has withdrawn from the Chase Championships in New York next week because of a recurring right knee problem. Williams, who had been receiving daily treatment on the knee, which she strained earlier in the year, said: "I would have loved to have been able to play but it's not possible."

ROWING: The Fours Head of the River, from Mortlake to Putney, on Saturday has again been massively oversubscribed, with the permitted maximum of 550 crews reached two days before the official closing date. The entry sees club rowers rubbing shoulders with Britain's top internationals and the flotilla will be led off by a quad scull of German international lightweighters from Mainz, the first foreign club to win the event, in 1997.

CRICKET: Two Pakistan batsmen suffered broken bones leading to the abandonment of their tour match in Timaru, New Zealand, yesterday because of a dangerous wicket. Wajahatullah Wasti suffered fractured ribs and Taimur Khan had his thumb broken while batting against Northern Conference. The incidents came on the second day. At the abandonment, Pakistan A were 141 for six, replying to Conference's score of 272.

WEIGHTLIFTING: Plamen Jeliazkov, of Bulgaria, set world records for the snatch and the total lift in the 69kg division at the world championships yesterday. Jeliazkov set a record for the snatch with a lift of 160.0kg, beating the previous mark of 158.0. Then Jeliazkov's clean and jerk of 190.0kg matched the record set by the International Weightlifting Federation when the weight categories were readjusted.

RUGBY UNION: Engla

Netherlan

Scotland warned by Peter...

Harold takes initiative in final

Snooker: Dave Harold... Tennis: Venus Williams... Rowing: The Great Britain...

RUGBY UNION: WORLD CUP QUALIFIER OFFERS CHANCE FOR DUTCH TO PROVE COURAGE

England show no mercy

BY DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT AND JOHN GOODBODY

THERE will be no concessions from England at Huddersfield tomorrow. They will treat their Dutch opponents in the World Cup qualifying game at the McAlpine Stadium as they would any other international team.

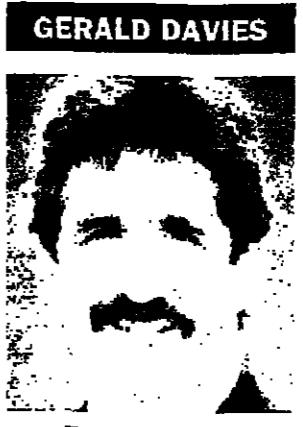


Guscott, the Bath centre, spins the ball out to his fellow threequarters during the England training session yesterday

However, the Rugby Football Union has linked a series of seminars to the qualifying tournament, designed to help local clubs with aspects of funding, youth development and medical aid...

Words do no justice to voice of McLaren

GERALD DAVIES



Rugby Union Commentary

In what is perceived to be the piranha-pool that media folk invent and that they choose to inhabit, it is time to sing the praises of a famous and conspicuously decent man, Bill McLaren...

He is no show-off, prepared to parade his information to enhance his own sense of authority. The facts for McLaren are not allowed to intrude on the spectacle itself nor to promote the sense of his own importance...

en the dullest of matches. Even the grass seems fresher and greener for Bill telling us so. He is manifestly composed of the best sensibilities. Commenting on a grinding, occasionally violent game, the cadence of his voice makes the game lovable...

Netherlands taught the Old tricks

David Hands meets the former All Black attempting to bring respectability to Dutch rugby

The train is leaving the station and we must be on it, even if we are the last carriage. Geoff Old said. The World Cup locomotive is bringing The Netherlands to England for a match that could become a nightmare for the Dutch players...

when there is a reputable independent system for sampling in countries hosting the matches, anything needs to go elsewhere. Jakote said. The UKSC oversees the sampling and analysis for all four home unions and the International Rugby Board.

Scotland warned by Peters

BY ALASDAIR REID

THE New Zealand Maoris have named four All Blacks in their line-up to play Scotland at Murrayfield tomorrow. The players are Adrian Cashmore, the full back, Caleb Ralph, the centre, Norm Berryman, the left wing, and Kees Meeuwis, the tight-head prop.

FOR THE RECORD

Table with columns for BASKETBALL, CRICKET, GOLF, and ICE HOCKEY, listing various sports events and results.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table listing football fixtures including FA Cup, Premiership, and other league matches.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- MARAGING: a. Heat treatment b. Interfering c. Cabinet ornamentation
MOHA: a. Fur b. Illusion c. Astronomical timescale
XERYUS: a. A bright star b. Greek liqueur c. Eastern scent

WINNING MOVE

Chess puzzle section featuring a chessboard diagram and a winning move solution by Raymond Keene.



McLaren has been a wonderful servant to rugby union

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE advertisement

KEENE on CHESS advertisement

Chess puzzle section with a chessboard diagram and a winning move solution by Raymond Keene.



RUGBY 49

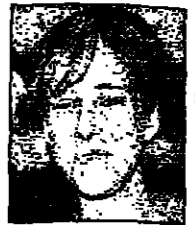
Magic all the way: how McLaren's voice makes the difference

SPORT

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 13 1998

ICE SKATING 50

Only 14 but ready to compete with the best in the land



Manager resigns post after failing to maintain the quality of Mersey

Tears as Evans laments leaving of Liverpool

By STEPHEN WOOD

THE boot-room that became part of the folklore of English football, let alone at Anfield, was demolished six years ago but, since then, its spirit had survived with the managerial reign of Roy Evans. Yesterday, however, as Evans left the club that has been his employer for 34 years, tradition was swept away on a wave of emotion. Evans relinquished his position as joint-manager of Liverpool by mutual consent, leaving Gerard Houllier, his partner, to assume sole control. Houllier, the Frenchman, is the first foreigner to lead Liverpool, but he acknowledged the importance of the club's past by appointing Phil Thompson, the former Liverpool captain, as his assistant. The scenario had been expected, the intensity of events yesterday less so. In a bizarre changing of the guard, Evans delivered his valedictory messages before being driven away through the Shankly Gates: moments later Houllier arrived to take the seat he had vacated at the press conference. David Moores, the Liverpool chairman, was the common bond between the two briefings. Close friends since Evans's arrival at Anfield in 1964 as a player, Moores sounded thoroughly sick at what he was having to do. It could hardly have escaped Evans's notice that the venue for this public split was the

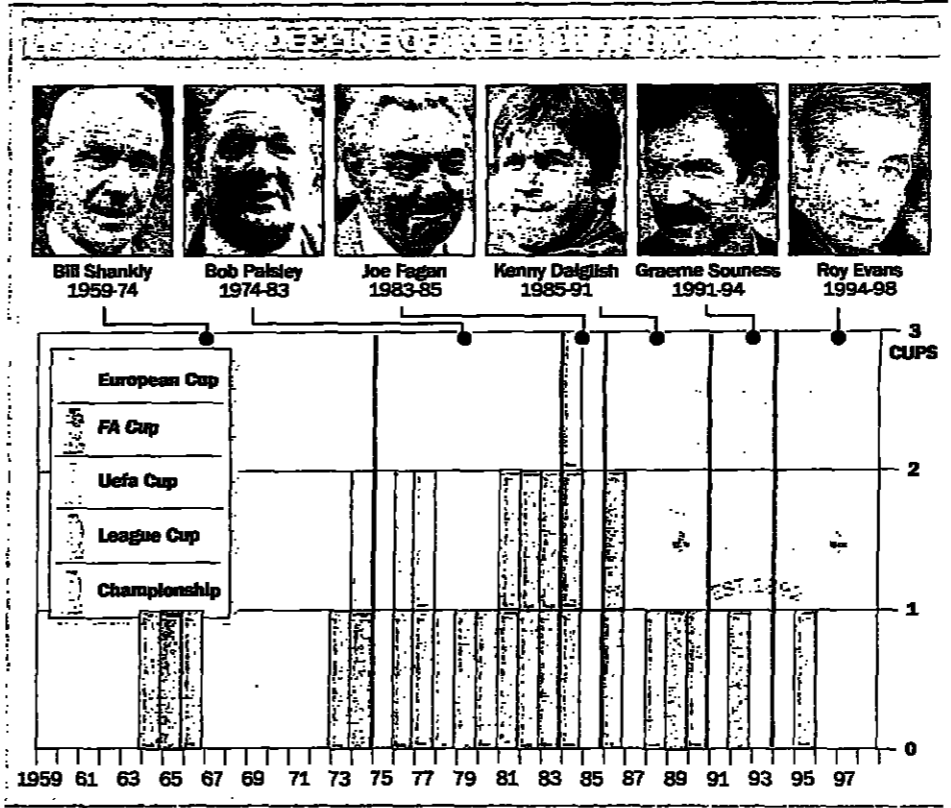
trophy room, underneath the main stand. Evans managed to add just one piece of silverware to it, the League Cup in 1995, and that return put him on borrowed time. In a touching tribute, Moores insisted he could "talk for hours about Roy and his respect for him", before Evans himself tried to explain how it had come to this. The decision by the Liverpool board to create a dual managership system became reality when Houllier joined, amid smiles and confidence, in July of this year. However, in the past month it appears that Evans realised it would not work. "The logistics were not right," he said. "It was not a personal problem between Gerard and I, only that the players and other members of staff did not know who was running the team. "We tried our hardest to make it work, and the players were totally committed in that time, but I felt that it would be beneficial for the future of this club if one man was charge. Results have been poor recently, so I let my feelings be known to the board of directors. I do not believe I have been a failure, but the success we achieved was not enough for Liverpool." Evans, tearful when he was asked what he would do now, made it clear he would not disrupt Houllier's working life, something Bob Paisley had a problem with after



Moores, the Liverpool chairman and a close friend of Evans, looks on as the manager says an emotional farewell. Photograph: Dave Kendall

succeeding Bill Shankly. Evans was offered another role at the club, but he turned it down. "I thought it best to make a clean break," he said. "It would be easy to be a ghost on the wall, but perhaps it would be best, especially for me, if I got away from it all for a while." He explained that his goodbyes with the players, at the Melwood training ground, had been brief, so high was the level of emotion. Evans was a popular man, but his affection towards the players who let him down so often probably hastened his departure. Evans has become, therefore, the last manager to graduate from the Anfield boot-room, an institution developed by Shankly, the manager of Liverpool from 1959 to 1974. His successors, Paisley, Joe Fagan, Kenny Dalglish and Graeme Souness, were all steeped in its history. Houllier ushered in a new era solemnly. "This is the saddest moment of my short time at Liverpool," he said. "Roy

came into the office for the last time and it was very moving. I feel sorry for him because he was so dedicated to this club. The last message he had was for the players to keep their heads up and to be successful here - that was all he ever wanted." Houllier told Moores that he wanted someone with a "Liverpool heart" as his assistant and Thompson's name was put forward. "I had a call on my mobile from the chairman, just before I was due to play five-a-side with some other former players," Thompson said. "I was shocked when I was offered the job, but it is the greatest day of my life." Thompson was sacked as reserve team coach by Souness in 1992. His return is motivated by the need to instil discipline and passion into the team, but it was a strange sight as his presence dominated Houllier at the press conference. Houllier admitted he did not know Thompson, but said: "There is only one manager now, and we will not be making the same mistake."

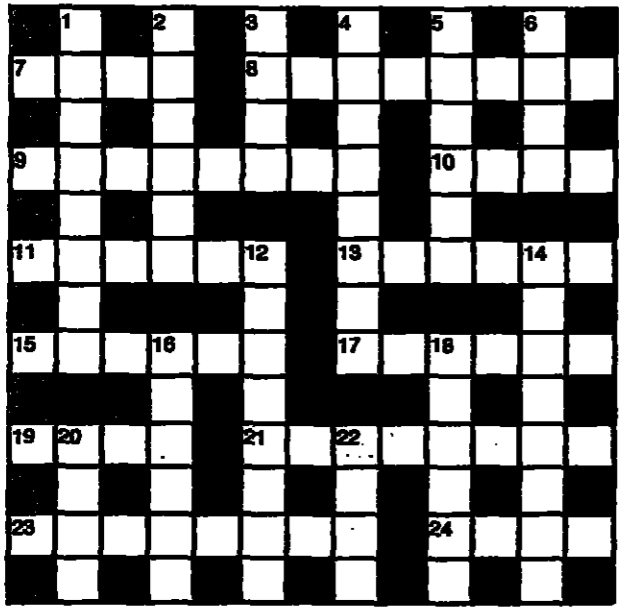


White is banned for 16 weeks

By ALASDAIR REID

JASON WHITE, the Glasgow Caledonians flanker, has been banned from rugby for 16 weeks after being found guilty of stamping on the head of Braam van Straaten, the South African stand-off half, during the match at Firhill on Tuesday evening. The sentence, which will keep White, 20, out of rugby until March 2 next year, was handed down by the match commissioner, Allan Hosie, at a disciplinary hearing at Murrayfield yesterday. White had been cited by the South Africans for illegal use of the boot after an incident in the 65th minute. A BBC recording of the game showed that his foot had come down on the head of the grounded Van Straaten, piercing his head guard. In upholding the charge, and delivering a sentence almost twice as long as the recommended minimum 60 days, Hosie rejected the defence of White that the contact had been accidental. Hosie, the former international referee who is chairman of the Five Nations Committee, was also critical of the war of words that had broken out after the incident. "I don't want to comment on the sentence directly," he said, "but I'd like to observe that comments attributed to certain personnel connected with both teams in advance of the disciplinary hearing were misguided and misplaced, and should not happen again." The obvious target of Hosie's words is Nick Mallet, the South African coach, who spoke openly and angrily about the incident immediately after the match. David Jordan, the Caledonians chief executive, last night expressed astonishment that his side had also attracted the wrath of the official. "I thought we conducted ourselves in a perfectly dignified fashion," he said. Jordan confirmed that an appeal would be lodged, but refused to say whether it would be against the verdict itself or the length of sentence. White, who has captained Scotland at schools and age-group levels, has been widely tipped to become a full international player in the future. Arthob Petersen, the Springboks manager, said: "We are satisfied. The team now wants to put this unfortunate incident behind us."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1562

- ACROSS: 7 Front warning shout (4), 8 In a third stage (8), 9 A US state, a creeper (8), 10 Walk (through stream) (4), 11 Handcart (6), 13 Filled glass: protection on car (6), 15 Regular correspondent (3,3), 17 Preserve (foody) (6), 19 Slide out of control (4), 21 Three-panel altar-piece (8), 23 Russian alphabet (8), 24 Very eager (4). DOWN: 1 Ponder (8), 2 Union (of egg companies) (6), 3 Knock unconscious (4), 4 Introductory statement (8), 5 N American tent (6), 6 Goad, poke (4), 12 Behave with pride (4,4), 14 Choosing best from various sources (8), 16 Language mixture (6), 18 Divulge: be disloyal to (6), 20 Florida islands: diatonic scales (4), 22 One needing scratch (4).

SOLUTION TO NO 1561: ACROSS: 3 Amicable 7 Stolen 8 Flying 9 Galeau 10 Pardon 11 Page 13 Three 15 Girl 17 Creepy 18 Acuity 19 Action 20 Hubris 21 Threnody. DOWN: 1 Strata 2 Allegre 3 Anguish 4 Collude 5 Brindisi 6 Eggshell 11 Penchant 12 Go-getter 13 Typhoon 14 Empathy 15 Grubby 16 Retain.

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP. NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE. The Times Two Crosswords (Book 7-12 98), The Times Crosswords (Book 20 Crosses-12 98), The Times Family Crosswords (Book 2) is available to Times readers for just 4 (RSP 24.99) while supplies last from The Times Bookshop.

Schmeichel makes last shout

As expected, Mark Bosnich steps into the shadow of Peter Schmeichel as Manchester United goalkeeper after this season, his task will be to fill not only the boots of one of the biggest athletes in football, but also to replace a perfectionist. Schmeichel announced yesterday, one week shy of his 35th birthday, that he asked to be released from the most coveted goalkeeping role in England. He is not retiring; rather he hopes to prolong his career by moving abroad, probably to France, where there is more time between matches, a less severe regimen to England's, which is so tough on nerve and sinew and concentration. He is honest enough to say that the back, the joints, the hamstrings cannot now respond to the standards he and United have set one another. England's mania for more games, more pay-nights, is at odds with his encroaching years, and rather than wait while his reputation wilts, he has called time on a chapter of achievement. Good for him, and good for United that they will allow him to go without fee. This allows him to negotiate terms that will enrich his final sporting years possibly more than United's pay structure permits: a loyalty pay-off in these increasingly disloyal post-Bos-

Rob Hughes on the goalkeeper's decision to leave Old Trafford

AS Monaco are two clubs ready to take Schmeichel to the French Riviera where warmer winds soothe athletic limbs, and where the space between games has a far more recuperative rhythm. "I'm enjoying the game as much as ever," Schmeichel said yesterday, "but it's getting harder to keep pace. I need to train more than ever, and to prepare properly I need more time between games than I can get in England. I certainly need more than 12 days' summer holiday." Alex Ferguson, who paid Brondby £50,000 for Schmeichel in August 1991, describes the big, blond Dane as "a major player in United's success... an inspiration and an influence to everyone." The style of that "influence" could look fearfully belligerent, and some players dubbed Schmeichel "The German" for his constant shouts that could almost seal the numbers off their backs. Yet with him, they lifted the albatross that had denied United the league title for 26 years - in less than a quarter of that time Schmeichel has been a championship winner four times and won the FA Cup

twice. The hunger to achieve, and to repeat the achievement, came, he said, from knowing what real life was like. The son of a professional musician, Peter Schmeichel was an apprentice carpet fitter, a salesman, a cleaner until, at 24, he became a full-time goalkeeper. The towering ego on the field contrasts to a polite, thoughtful Scandinavian manner away from competition. He roomed with Eric Cantona and shared hours with the Frenchman at the chess board. We glimpsed his compassionate side when he attended to David Buist after a shattered broken leg ended the career of the Coventry City defender in Schmeichel's goalmouth. More private is Schmeichel the family man, who plays the piano for relaxation, and who reflected recently: "I was pointing out on a map to my son, Kasper, all the countries I'd been to when I realised I could hardly tell him about anything other than hotels and stadiums." Spoken with a Mancunian accent, the legacy of his time at Old Trafford, Schmeichel has half a year more to add a fifth championship, maybe a European Cup, and possibly pass the 350-appearance milestone with Manchester United. His release, however, is not an ending; Schmeichel has 107 caps for Denmark, and every intention of adding to them.



Schmeichel: feeling his age

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